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NEPAL COALITION GOVT.

Prachanda forges new alliance with Oli's party

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One dead in elephant attack in Kerala

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POLITICAL FLASHPOINT

Sandeshkhali, the untold story

It is an apt example of 'franchisee politics' told through two narratives

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THUMPING WIN

Mumbai crushes T.N., enters Ranji final

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'Pro-Pak slogan' case: 3 persons arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Police take three persons into custody for allegedly raising 'Pakistan zindabad' slogans on the Vidhana Soudha premises.

The Vidhana Soudha police on Monday arrested three people for allegedly raising "Pakistan zindabad" slogans in the corridors of Vidhana Soudha during the victory celebrations of Rajya Sabha member, Syed Naseer Hussain.

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Central division, Shekhar H.T., confirmed that the arrest is based on FSL report, circumstantial evidence and statements of the witnesses gathered at the event. The accused have been identified as Iltaj from Delhi, Munawar from R.T. Nagar in Bengaluru and Mohammed Shafi Nashipudi from Byadagi in Haveri district. The accused have been produced before the court.

A video had gone viral soon after the Rajya Sabha election results were announced, claiming that a few Congress supporters had shouted "Pakistan Zindabad" slogans in the corridors of Vidhana Soudha to celebrate the win of Syed Naseer Hussain.

Some Congress leaders had denied the allegations saying supporters were shouting "Naseer saab zindabad." The accused had been detained for questioning where they denied raising any pro-Pakistan slogans. However, the police continued to probe and waited for the FSL report on the video clip submitted to ascertain the facts.

SC ends immunity for legislators taking bribes

Seven-judge Bench overrules the 25-year-old JMM bribery case judgment, saying representative democracy is at stake; the court dismisses the fears of abuse of law by political parties in power

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A seven-judge Bench of the Supreme Court on Monday declared that parliamentary privilege or immunity will not protect legislators who take bribes to vote or speak in Parliament or State Legislative Assemblies from criminal prosecution.

"Privileges and immunities are not gateways to claim exemptions from the general law of the land... Corruption and bribery of members of the legislature erode the foundation of Indian parliamentary democracy," the Supreme Court observed.

The unanimous verdict authored by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud overruled a 25-year-old majority view of the Supreme Court, laid down in the JMM bribery case judgment of 1998, that lawmakers who took bribes were immune from prosecution for corruption if they go ahead and vote or speak in the House as agreed.

The seven-judge Bench said the majority on the five-judge Bench in the JMM bribery case had erred. The court did not want to perpetuate the grave error. Representative democracy was at stake. Chief Justice Chandrachud clarified that the offence of bribery was complete the moment the corruption money was accepted.

"The legislator will face criminal prosecution whether or not he makes a speech or votes in favour of the bribe-giver. The offence of bribery is complete on the acceptance of the money or on the agreement to accept money being concluded," Chief Justice Chandrachud observed.

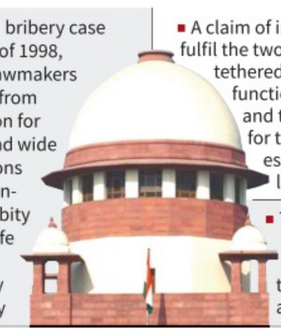
The Constitution Bench dismissed notions that whittling down parliamentary immunity would expose a vote or a speech made by Opposition lawmakers in the House to criminal investigation and thus enhance the possibility of abuse of the law by political parties in power.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Taking away privilege

A look at the observations made by the seven-judge Bench of the Supreme Court in its unanimous verdict:

- The JMM bribery case judgment of 1998, granting lawmakers immunity from prosecution for bribery, had wide ramifications on public interest, probity in public life and parliamentary democracy
- A claim of immunity should fulfil the twofold test that it is tethered to the collective functioning of the House and that it is necessary for the discharge of the essential duties of a legislator
- The offence of bribery is complete at the point when the legislator accepts the bribe



Modi slams 'dynasts' in politics, says 'my country is my family'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi waving to the crowd during a public meeting in Chennai on Monday. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Hitting out at the Opposition alliance after Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Lalu Prasad mocked him as a person who did not have a family, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the country's "140 crore people" were his family and he was working day and night for their development.

"*Mera Bharat, Mera Parivar*" (My India, My family), he declared and said the entire country was speaking in one voice – "I am Modi's family".

The Prime Minister, addressing a public meeting in Chennai, said parties such as the DMK and Congress believed in the motto of "family first" and the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance leaders have made it a habit to abuse his family.

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NEARBY

Fake tickets: RTCs take action against conductors

BENGALURU
Road transport corporations have taken disciplinary action against 108 conductors for generating 'fake' tickets under Shakti scheme. » PAGE 2

Coconut growers make a dash

SHIVAMOGGA
Hundreds of farmers stood in queue at APMC markets in Hassan district to register their names for ball copra procurement at support price. Even though the registration process was to begin at 8 a.m. on Monday, many reached the registration counters on Sunday afternoon. » PAGE 6

SC to hear plea of T.N. Minister to club FIRs

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Udhayanidhi Stalin

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to examine a plea by Tamil Nadu Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin to club First Information Reports (FIRs) registered against him in multiple States over his remarks on 'Sanatana Dharma'.

Initially, the Bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta said that Mr. Stalin was no layman and should have realised the consequences that would follow his remarks.

The Minister responded that he was not before the Supreme Court on the merits of the case but on a question of procedure.

He said the registration of multiple FIRs was a violation of his right to a fair trial and amounted to "persecution before prosecution".

"You abuse Article 19(1)(a) [free speech], you abuse Article 25 [freedom of conscience]. Now you are coming here under Article 32 [writ protection of fundamental rights]... You are not a layman. You are a Minister. You should have realised the consequences," Justice Datta addressed senior advocates A.M. Singhvi, Mukul Rohatgi and P. Wilson, appearing for the Tamil Nadu Minister.

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ED accuses Cong. leader's wife, 2 others of money laundering

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Monday alleged that Louise Khurshid, wife of Congress leader Salman Khurshid and the then project director of Dr. Zakir Husain Memorial Trust, and two others allegedly laundered ₹71.50 lakh.

Asset attached

The agency has provisionally attached 15 immovable properties worth ₹29.51 lakh, in the form of agricultural land, in Farrukhabad, Uttar Pradesh and ₹16.41 lakh lying in four bank accounts linked to the trust.

The money-laundering probe is based on 17 FIRs registered by the Uttar Pradesh Police's Economic Offences Wing against Pratyush Shukla, a representative of the trust, and others. The police have filed chargesheets in all 17 cases against Athar Farooqui alias Mohammed Athar, as the then secretary of the trust; and the then project director, Ms. Khurshid, it said.

Grant-in-aid not used

According to the ED, the grant-in-aid of ₹71.50 lakh received by the trust was not used for holding camps as sanctioned by the Centre.

The funds were instead allegedly laundered by Mr. Shukla, Mr. Athar and Ms. Khurshid, "for the interest of the trust and their personal gain".

The trust had received the funds purportedly for the distribution of hearing aids and wheelchairs among persons with disabilities.

DKS directs officials to take over irrigation, commercial borewells

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As water crisis looms large in Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural, Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar directed the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to take over irrigation and commercial borewells to supply water to parched areas.

Speaking to the media after chairing a meeting on drinking water crisis, Mr. Shivakumar said he has directed BWSSB and the zilla panchayat to identify irrigation borewells used for farming and commercial ones and take them over. "We are planning to compensate for taking over irrigation borewells. As water is the property of the State and not of any individual, the State has the right to take over in the time of crisis. The law pertaining to water also allows the State to rope in borewells to ease the crisis."

Mr. Shivakumar said these water sources will be identified soon and water will be supplied through tankers. He further informed that of the 14,781 borewells in Bengaluru, 6,997 are dried up and 7,784 are functional. The crisis may worsen as already, close to 50% of borewells have dried up."

Meanwhile, with private water tankers having to mandatorily register now, so far, only 219 water tankers have registered in the BBMP limits. According to estimates, there are 3,500 tankers and this also includes oil tankers.

Mr. Shivakumar said it is mandatory for the tankers to register and the vehicles which are not registered will be seized. The police and the RTO have also been informed about this. A portal - bbmp.oasisweb.in - was opened for registration on March 1 and registration should be done before March 5.

Mr. Shivakumar said tanker operators are now charging exorbitant prices and the government will soon fix prices based on distance from the source to the household. Mr. Shivakumar said that KMF and other departments that have empty tankers have been told to keep them on standby. He said he had directed the officials to identify areas where there are good watertables to drill borewells, including in Ramanagara, Devanahalli, Kanakapura, and others.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 3

According to IMD, there is likely to be heatwave during the three summer months in some parts of the State. FILE PHOTO

Karnataka to witness above-normal temperatures

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka is likely to have a warm summer as the season will witness above-normal temperatures during March, April, and May. There is a high probability of above-normal rainfall over a few districts of north interior Karnataka and south interior Karnataka also during March.

According to the India Meteorological Department, the normal temperature for Bengaluru during March, April, and May are 33.4°C, 34.1°C, and 33.1°C, respectively. There is a possibility that the temperatures could go up to 35°C for a few days in March.

A. Prasad, scientist, IMD, said in some parts of the State, there is likely to be heatwave during the three summer months.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 3

NIA takes over Bengaluru cafe blast case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has taken over The Rameshwaram Cafe blast case.

Director General and Inspector General of Police Alok Mohan confirmed the news and said a team of NIA officials met him on Monday to discuss the formalities.

City police to continue probe

Meanwhile, the city police teams probing the case have some vital clues and are working on tracking down the suspect. They will continue the investigations along with NIA officials, a senior police officer said.

The Bengaluru police said one of the CCTV camera footages from the restaurant revealed that the suspect stayed for 10 minutes at the cafe, after which he left. The IED fitted with a timer exploded minutes after he left, resulting in nine people being injured.

"The IED shrapnel hit the ceiling instead of going in all directions. This minimised the damage and injuries. Had it spread around, the casualties could have been more," an officer added.

The Bengaluru city police, who analysed CCTV footage from hundreds of cameras, have said that the suspect may have boarded multiple buses and taken a circuitous route to reach the restaurant to plant the bomb.

The police are probing the networks of at least four terror suspects from Karnataka, who have given security agencies the slip and are still at large in connection with the blast.

Three PU girl students suffer burn injuries in acid attack

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Kadaba police have arrested Abin, MBA student from Malappuram district

Three second year Pre-University girl students of science stream suffered burns following an acid attack at the Government PU College at Kadaba in Dakshina Kannada district on Monday.

The Kadaba police arrested Abin, 23, an MBA student from Nilambur taluk of Malappuram district in Kerala, for throwing the acid. The police said that the youth was enraged as one of the girls had refused to love him. Abin entered the college premises in uniform at about 9 a.m. and threw acid on the 17-year-old girl who was with her classmates. She suffered burns on her face and hands. Acid fell on two other girls who also suffered burns, the police said adding that the students were preparing to appear for Mathematics examination when they were attacked.

All three students are undergoing treatment in a hospital in Mangaluru. They are out of danger, the police said. Soon after the attack, five of their classmates chased and caught Abin and handed him over to the college principal. Following a compliant by the victim, the Kadaba police arrested Abin.

Preliminary investigation revealed that Abin was angry with the girl for refusing to love him. Both belonged to the same community, the police said. Deputy Director of PU Department C.D. Jayanna visited the college.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 3

I try to win games for my team irrespective of the format: Taide

The Vidarbha batter led the side to the knockout rounds of Syed Mushtaq Ali and Vijay Hazare Trophy and has been retained in the Punjab Kings squad for IPL 2024

PTI

Abhishek Saini
NAGPUR

Though Atharva Taide has aced most tests that his not-so-long career has entailed until now, the opening challenge confronting him with Vidarbha in the Ranji Trophy was the litmus test of sorts.

Asked to succeed a domestic giant, Faiz Fazal, who made 138 appearances over a 20-year First Class career, Taide would have been pardoned for dwelling more on his four-runs-from-two-innings record as opener in the Indian Premier League than the natural flair at the position through the rest of his career.

But the 23-year-old rose to the occasion when his side took down Karnataka in the quarterfinals of the competition. Taide notched up a century at the top, helping Vidarbha to an imposing 460 runs in the first innings, which later proved a point of no return for the heavyweight.

Landing the sucker punch on a team that played out a draw against Chandigarh in its final group match, preferring to play Vidarbha over Saurashtra, made the victory even sweeter.

"I would not like to put myself in someone else's shoes. I am not here to fill in the space left by someone else. My goal is to play cricket at the highest level, and that is what I am doing when I am playing First Class cricket. I want to go out there and express myself," said Taide.

A turnaround

This was the same confidence that allowed Taide to script a turnaround after scores of zero and four in his first two outings with Punjab Kings in 2023. The left-hander moved to the No. 3 spot and got 182 runs from five innings at a strike rate nearing 150.

There was a minor blip in the comeback arc, though. With Punjab chasing 214 against Delhi Capitals for a final push for the Playoffs, Taide's 42-ball 55 was not quite cutting it.

With 86 runs needed off 30 deliveries, he became only the second batter in tournament to be 'retired out'. If the ignominy was not enough in itself, questions over not retiring him sooner in the innings rubbed salt in his wound.

"IPL is a platform where you cannot hide anything. If you are even slightly unfit mentally, physically, emotionally, or skill-wise, it shows. So you have to be 100% in all these departments and tick all these boxes to get the best out of yourself," said Taide.

Despite the unceremonious stat to his account, the importance of the seven games was not lost on Taide.

"Every platform you play in, be it the IPL or the Ranji Trophy, you get confidence that you are one step closer to your dream. Since I started playing, the goal has been to play for India. When I play with the best players in the world, it gives me confidence that I belong there. And yes, the IPL also helped make me believe that I'm heading in the right direction," said Taide.

Taide's career grew in leaps and bounds in 2023. If it commenced with the IPL debut, it turned another corner when he took over the reins of Vidarbha's white-ball teams. The news was not surprising, given he marshalled Vidarbha to its maiden Cooch Behar Trophy in 2018. He led the side to the knockout rounds of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and the Vijay Hazare Trophy. His retention in the Kings squad for the upcoming season bookended his year.

While it might be prudent to start setting the benchmark even higher, India-A in Taide's case, he is quick in admitting that is some distance away.

"Going too far ahead of myself will be the biggest mistake I can make right now. What I have in my hand is to perform in every game that I play. I try to win games for my team, irrespective of the format I play in. That is the only thing I can control," says Taide.

His 302 runs in seven innings in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, at a strike rate just shy of 170, are too far back in time for his liking. While his 529 runs in the Ranji Trophy this season make for a decent run-haul, Taide wants to ride into the IPL on the back of eye-catching performances in crunch matches.

After his 109 in the last-eight round was to that tune, Taide squandered an opportunity in the semifinal against Madhya Pradesh.

Talking straight

"The wicket was good, we did not bat well. We should have shown more character," said Taide on getting strangled down leg on 39 in the first innings after navigating through the morning session on the opening day under overcast conditions.

His blunt, upfront admission of his giveaway is manifestation of Taide's eagerness to score and his expectations of himself.

As Vidarbha sits 261 runs ahead after three days of play, there is nothing Taide would want more than the final chance to sign-off the season in style.

THE GIST

- Taide notched up a century at the top, helping Vidarbha to an imposing 460 runs in the first innings in the quarterfinals against Karnataka
- His career grew in leaps and bounds in 2023 as he made his IPL debut, it turned another corner when he took over the reins of Vidarbha's white-ball teams
- Taide has 529 runs to his credit in the current Ranji Trophy season so far

Aggression — the driving force behind Vidarbha's Yash Thakur

Abhishek Saini
NAGPUR

The most plain-sighted hint in Yash Thakur's disposition as he sets himself up at the top of his run-up are his raised collars. They do not drop even when he fields at deep fine leg. Yet if those fail to put the point across, the 25-year-old pacer lets his fist-pump celebrations, send-offs, and staredowns give it away.

"I think aggression is my strength. I believe it is necessary in the game. That is what drives me to give my best. We got just 170 in the first innings, [and] to come back from there, we needed to be aggressive. Otherwise, I don't think we would have managed to, on this wicket," said Thakur after the second day's play during Vidarbha's semifinal against Madhya Pradesh (MP).

While his three wickets for 51 runs were invaluable in Vidarbha restricting MP's lead to 82 runs on Sunday, it was his boldness, even if a footnote in the grander scheme of things, that truly underlined Thakur's flair.

With Himanshu Mantri and Sagar Solanki beginning to wrest control back after MP's collapse earlier in the morning, Thakur took the opportunity to remind who was in charge, grabbing the ball tapped back at him by Solanki and flinging it back at the stumps.

'Celebrappeal'

In the first session, Thakur unleashed a 'celebrappeal' after trapping Harsh Gawali leg before, topping it off with a fist pump in the path of the departing batter. The send-off was similar for Venkatesh Iyer three overs later. "My nature is such. It would have been the same had we scored 300 in the first innings. It keeps me pumped," said Thakur.

The highlight, hands down, came in the second session after Thakur darted from long on to the non-striker's end to catch Solanki inches outside the crease. As soon as the red light confirmed the third umpire's verdict, Thakur turned to the MP dugout and helped himself to three fist-pumps.

"I was double-minded. Had I thrown and missed, that would have been a reprieve. So I thought why not go all the way. I thought about the Jonty diving run out as well, but the distance was a little too much, and then it was purely instincts taking over," said Thakur.

B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Though his genial responses off the field cut a starkly distinct picture from his persona in the middle, Thakur said the switch is on purpose.

"I think Morne Morkel convinced me. He was aggressive when he played. He told me you have it inbuilt, so you should capitalise on it. He said that will keep helping me develop and get the desired results," said Thakur, who worked with Morkel at Lucknow Super Giants in the Indian Premier League (IPL) last year.

Branded as a death-overs specialist after his exploits in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy last season, Lucknow put faith in Thakur when Jaydev Unadkat's injury opened a spot in the eleven. The Vidarbha quick returned 13 wickets in nine games, including a four-wicket haul against Punjab Kings, which prompted the side to retain him for the upcoming season.

"I got to share the dressing room with the player that I grew up watching, Gautam Gambhir. I learned so much from him. He taught me to be street-smart and tilt the match in the team's favour. That has helped me the most, which I can come back and use in domestic cricket. I'm lucky to have played that level," said Thakur.

This season, Thakur moved on from his tag of a limited-overs bowler, offering company to fellow quicks Umesh Yadav and Aditya Thakare in the Ranji Trophy with his 18 wickets from 11 innings. While his senior partners have been more prolific, Thakur had an idea of what would improve his yield for the team.

Gameplan

"I think I can mix up the lengths well. I can switch between back-of-a-length and slightly fuller ones. I try to not let the batters settle to one pace or one length. But I would like to be more consistent with this," said Thakur.

Before he moves on to the IPL bandwagon later this month, Thakur wants to go all in with Vidarbha, a side back in the semifinals of the Ranji Trophy after five years.

Shakti scheme: Disciplinary action against conductors for issuing fake tickets

KSRTC official says it was discovered that conductors generate fake tickets to earn incentives from the RTCs. The corporation provides incentives to bus crew members who achieve their targets

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU:

As the Karnataka government's Shakti scheme that allows women to travel for free in State transport buses has received an overwhelming response, the road transport corporations (RTCs) have taken disciplinary action against 108 conductors from four RTCs for generating 'fake' tickets under the scheme.

According to the data, 53 conductors in the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), 12 in the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), seven in the North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC), and 36 in the Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC) have faced disciplinary action.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said: "The bus crew from all four RTCs have been consistently instructed not to issue fake or extra tickets or misuse the Shakti scheme. Despite these warnings, 108 instances have been identified, leading to disciplinary measures being taken against them."

Since the launch of the Shakti scheme on June 11, 2023, till now the RTCs have issued 1,64,65,13,113 'zero tickets'. P.K. BADIGER

Details of action taken

Corporation/RTCs	Number of disciplinary action
Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation	53
Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation	12
North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation	7
Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation	36
Total cases	**108**

Source: Transport Department

According to Mr. Reddy the RTCs have formed special teams to address this issue, actively conducting an investigation to identify instances where conductors issue fraudulent tickets.

A senior KSRTC official said that upon investigating cases involving the issuance of fake tickets, it was discovered that conductors generated such tickets to earn incentives from the RTCs. The corporation provides incentives to bus crew members who achieve their targets.

In October 2023, the BMTC suspended a driver-cum-conductor who was caught on camera generating unnecessary tickets to claim incentives. The incident gained widespread attention on social media, where a video captured the conductor printing tickets from the electronic ticketing machine and discarding them out of the window. The video, recorded by a female passenger, went viral, leading to the subsequent suspension of the conductor by BMTC.

Since the launch of the Shakti scheme on June 11, 2023, till March 3 the RTCs issued 1,64,65,13,113 "zero tickets" indicating the number of free bus rides women have taken utilising the scheme. The cumulative value of tickets issued has been ₹39,37,43,57,155.

Four-year-old child who was 'tortured' by mother rescued in Girinagar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Boy was found with bruises over his body and is now under the care of the Child Welfare Committee

A four-year-old boy who was allegedly tortured by his mother and locked up in the house has been rescued by members of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC).

The 26-year-old woman, a single mother, was living with the child in a rented house in Girinagar after separating from her husband three years ago, said the police.

She allegedly used to lock up her son while going out to search for work. The boy was found with bruises all over his body and is now under the care of the CWC.

The CWC has summoned the mother for counselling and to take further action. A neighbour who noticed the boy through the window crying for food spoke to him before reporting the incident.

The police, along with the CWC members, rescued the child and booked a case against the woman. The CWC members who counselled the child claimed that he refused to go with the mother.

The child is presently under the care of the CWC and the committee will be taking a call on the future of the boy, Shashidhar Kosambe, member of the committee, said.

1,244 students get degrees at UAS-B convocation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"In recent days, along with increasing agricultural yield, the State government is also encouraging the development of post-harvest technologies. There is a chance to double the income of farmers if we provide them tools they need at affordable prices and minimum support price and if they realise that there is a good price for their produce. I wish that those graduating today get active in developing such novel agricultural industries for these purposes," said Agriculture Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy, at the 58th convocation ceremony of University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore (UAS – B) on Monday.

The gold medal winners at the 58th convocation of the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

As many as 1,244 students received various degrees (undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral) during the convocation ceremony, while 63 students were awarded 53 UAS gold medals and 81 donor's gold medals, and 22 donor's gold medal certificates.

Snehashree S., a student of BSc (Honours), Agriculture, at GKVK Bengaluru, secured the highest number (13) of gold medals.

M.C. Rangaswamy, a farmer from Doddamagge village in Hassan district, was awarded an honorary doctorate.

Karnataka police golden jubilee run on March 10

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State police in its golden jubilee year is organising a 5K and 10K run in association with the State Bank of India. The run has the tagline "Fitness for All" and is also to promote a drugs-free Karnataka.

The event will have two different categories, a timed 10K and 5K run.

Registration for the event has already started and the run expects to attract more than 10,000 runners from across all age groups from across the country.

The run, scheduled on Sunday, will start and finish in front of the Vidhana Soudha. The timed 10K run will be flagged off at 6.30 a.m. and the awareness 5K run at 7.15 a.m.

The route will be around Cubbon Park and also amplify the importance of a green Bengaluru.

IIHR's three-day national horticultural fair set to begin today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Garden City is set to showcase premier technologies in the horticulture sector as the three-day national horticultural fair-2024 of the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) on the theme "Nextgen technology led horticulture for sustainable development" will begin at its Hessarghatta premises on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Tuesday.

The fair will showcase the country's most advanced and recent technologies in the sector such as smart irrigation, controlled environment management, vertical farming, ways of optimising use of resources for boosting crop yield, environment-friendly practices for sustainable horticulture, and digital horticulture.

For the State farmers and urban horticulture enthusiasts who are struggling to deal with summer water shortage, the fair will offer water conserving technologies that can be adopted in horticulture.

The fair will also showcase a technology that provides for the increased shelf life of fresh-cut fruits for nearly three months with minimum processing. The disease-resistant chilly hybrid variety of the IIHR that was released recently will also be on display.

The main intention of the fair is to not only boost the income of farmers by turning horticulture into an industry, but to also ensure that the country gets quality supply of horticultural produce.

This is also an effort to attract the youth, particularly encourage educated youth to take to horticulture.

A file photo of a previous edition of the fair. The Indian Institute of Horticultural Research fair will begin on its Hessarghatta premises on the outskirts of Bengaluru.

In addition to this, hands-on training as well as workshops on urban horticulture, soil-less cultivation, terrace gardening, hi-tech horticulture, value addition and waste utilisation of flowers, farm/kitchen waste composting and home-scale package and storage of fresh fruits and vegetables have also been organised for those interested in horticulture.

The fair will also feature an exhibition, through over 250 stalls of various ICAR institutes, State Agricultural Universities, FPOs, NGOs and entrepreneurs showcasing latest technologies related to horticulture.

The IIHR is expecting an estimated 50,000 farmers and other stakeholders from across the country to visit the fair.

Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Arjun Munda will inaugurated the fair.

'Indian community is Australia's second largest and fastest growing overseas group'

Karnataka and Australia share a very welcoming environment for educational collaborations and are currently increasing the number of partnerships in the field, says Australian Consul General in Bengaluru

INTERVIEW

Hilary McGeachy

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Hilary McGeachy, newly appointed Australian Consul General for Bengaluru in a conversation with *The Hindu*. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Australia is currently in the process of deepening and widening its connections with India in general and Karnataka in particular, by expanding collaborations beyond trade and also planning to explore bilateral ties across a wide range of mutual interest areas. Hilary McGeachy, newly-appointed Australian Consul General for Bengaluru, in an exclusive conversation with *The Hindu* spoke about the business opportunities across technology, innovation, education, training for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), and wetland agriculture.

Excerpts from the interview:

The Indian diaspora in Australia is on a significant rise. How do you view this?

Some four percent of Australia's population today is of Indian origin. Interestingly, between 2011 and 2021, the number of Indians in Australia has doubled. The Indian community is Australia's second-largest and fastest-growing overseas group. The number of people in Australia with Indian heritage is around 976,000, against our total population of about 26 million, as per the 2021 census. The number is on a constant rise, so India is quite there with us.

How is the new trade agreement helping interactions between India and Australia?

India is Australia's sixth largest trading partner with two-way trade in goods and services valued at $48 billion (AUD) in 2022. The recent Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) eliminated tariffs on most of the critical minerals needed for solar panels, electric cars, wind turbines, mobiles, and more. The utilisation rate for Indian exports to Australia is very high at 77%, indicating the positive impact of the agreement.

What are the collaborations Australia is exploring in education?

Education is one of the key areas where we are exploring partnerships with Karnataka and Telangana. Australia offers high-quality education and Karnataka too has educational institutions of high quality. We both share a very welcoming environment for educational collaborations and we are currently increasing the number of partnerships in the field. Indian students can study in Australia and get a permit to work there as well to hone their skills and approximately 120,000 Indian students are there in Australia now. We are encouraging universities to open in Karnataka and other parts of India. We are currently in dialogue with the State government here. Australia's Deakin University already opened a teaching campus in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City and Wollongong University is also starting in GIFT City.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, MAR. 05	
RISE	06:33 SET 18:29
RISE	01:54 SET 13:24
WEDNESDAY, MAR. 06	
RISE	06:32 SET 18:29
RISE	02:54 SET 14:26
THURSDAY, MAR. 07	
RISE	06:32 SET 18:29
RISE	03:53 SET 15:31

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	23
Mysuru	35	21
Bengaluru	35	20

Bengaluru Today
33°C A dry weather to continue. Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night will remain slight cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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ISRO's EOS-6 satellite enables precise air quality monitoring over Indian subcontinent

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed and validated an Ocean Colour Monitor (OCM-3) Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD) product.

This data product enables determining the intricacies of air quality dynamics over the landmass of the Indian subcontinent. It is developed using the SAC Aerosol Retrieval (SAER) algorithm, an innovative tool. It utilises EOS-6 satellite data.

"The product is accessible for researchers and students through MOSDAC after the formal registration. This data repository beckons researchers to unravel air quality intricacies like never before. The data serves as a benchmarking air quality simulation model, providing valuable insights for scholars and policymakers towards a cleaner and healthier future," ISRO said.

This advancement is enabled by the 1 km spatial resolution of the OCM-3 onboard EOS-6. The satellite EOS-6, launched in November 2022, is equipped with a state-of-the-art OCM sensor, marking a significant leap in the ability to monitor atmospheric aerosols.

OCM-3 AOD product data provides unprecedented insights into aerosol concentrations across the Indian landmass. It delves deep into the particulate matter suspended in the atmosphere, empowering researchers to navigate the complexities of air quality dynamics with precision.

Its high-resolution data reveals the dynamics of particulate matter (PM2.5/PM10), offering insights into their distribution and transport over metropolitan areas.

CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute
Rana Pratap Marg, Lucknow 226001

Call for Expression of Interest (EOI)

CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute invites **Expression of Interest (EOI)** for the below referred technologies/knowhow developed by the institute based on 108 petals lotus (Namoh 108) under 'CSIR Floriculture Mission'.

- **Agro-technologies for the cultivation of Namoh 108**
- **Lotus inspired perfume (Frotus)**
- **Lotus fibre based Apparel**
- **Lotus petals based Tea (Amrita)**
- **Lotus rhizomes based fermented health drink (Amrit)**

EoIs are invited from interested Industries / SMEs / Progressive Entrepreneurs/ Startups for technology transfer. The application should include details of company profile/biodata. The selected parties shall be called for discussions.

Interested parties may visit institutes website for more details and send their EoI in a sealed cover superscripting "Expression of Interest" addressed to:

Director
CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute
Rana Pratap Marg, Lucknow - 226001, Uttar Pradesh, India
Email: director@nbri.res.in; Tel.: +91-522-2297802 / +91-522-2205839
Website: https://www.nbri.res.in

Big Swedish study hints at link between bowel disease, infant diet

The authors of the new study found that children who had a high intake of fish and vegetables at one year of age were at lower risk of developing Inflammatory Bowel Disease while those who had a higher intake of sugar-sweetened beverages at the same age were at higher risk

Sayantan Datta

Researchers followed the dietary habits of more than 80,000 children through adolescence in Norway and Sweden. RANDY FATH/UNSPLASH

Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) describes disorders where the lining of the digestive tract is inflamed. There are two types of IBD disorders: ulcerative colitis, where the large intestine and the rectum are prone to inflammation and sores, and Crohn's disease, which usually affects the small intestine.

Researchers have reported diet, age, family history, cigarette smoking, and certain medications, among other factors, as being responsible for causing or worsening IBD.

They have also said changing diet patterns can help explain changing patterns of the prevalence of IBD. For example, a 2023 study in *The Lancet* attributed a higher incidence of IBD in rural Telangana to the greater availability and consumption of processed foods.

A diet that predicts IBD

More recently, a study published in the journal *Gut* in January reported that the diet of infants as young as a year old could affect their chances of developing IBD in future. Researchers behind the study followed the dietary habits of more than 80,000 children through adolescence in Norway and Sweden as they consumed plenty of vegetables and fish in the first year of life, and were associated with a lower future risk of developing IBD.

Consuming sugar-sweetened beverages in this time was associated with a higher risk of IBD, they reported. According to their analysis, at three years of age, no dietary factor other than fish intake was associated with IBD risk. The researchers suspect the developing gut microbiome may be at the heart of the apparent age-dependent relationship of dietary intake and IBD.

The gut microbiome comprises a vast number and types of micro-organisms that live in the human gut. According to the authors of the *Gut* paper, it changes significantly through the first year and stabilises by the time the infant is two to three years old.

ABIS and MoBa databases

Ashwin Ananthakrishnan, a gastroenterologist at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, suggested in an article accompanying the paper that infants may benefit from a "preventive" diet that includes "adequate dietary fibre, particularly from fruit and vegetables", "intake of fish", a minimal amount of sugar-sweetened beverages, and a preference of "fresh over processed and ultra-processed foods and snacks".

The authors of the *Gut* paper, led by doctoral student Annie Guo from the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, tracked participants from two large-scale databases: All Babies in Southeast Sweden (ABIS) and Norwegian Mother, Father and Child Cohort (MoBa).

Both databases use questionnaires to document a child's upbringing and lifestyle, including diets. ABIS records data from children born in southeast Sweden from October 1997 to October 1999. MoBa recruited pregnant women throughout Norway from 1999 to 2008.

Together, the researchers had a cohort of 81,280 children, of which roughly half were female. They found an IBD incidence rate of 32 per 100,000 person-years in the ABIS database and 22 per 100,000 person years in the MoBa database. (If 1,000 people participated in a study for one year, the study is said to have 1,000 person-years of data.)

Statistical prediction of IBD risk

To test whether an early-life diet correlated with later incidence of IBD, the authors collated data of the children's dietary habits at 1-1.5 years and 2.5-3 years of age from the two databases. They assigned a score to the diet quality, and recorded the frequency of intake of nine food categories: dairy, fish, fruits, grains, meat, sugar-dense and fat-dense food, sugar-sweetened beverages, and vegetables.

A diet rich in fruits, vegetables, fish, and eggs was seen to comprise "healthy food groups". A diet had "unhealthy foods" if it was rich in "salty snacks and sweet snacks".

In their analyses, the researchers used a statistical test to check whether a child's early-life dietary intake could also predict later IBD risk.

The analysis was adjusted to account for several factors implicated in the past as causes of IBD, including parental history of IBD, early-life antibiotic exposure, and intake of formula food in the first year.

The effect of fish

The researchers also excluded from their final analysis data from children who were diagnosed with IBD at less than six years of age because such a case "often constitutes a highly genetically determined subtype of IBD", they wrote in their paper.

The authors found that children who had a high intake of fish and vegetables at one year of age were at lower risk of developing IBD while those who had a higher intake of sugar-sweetened beverages at the same age were at higher risk.

At three years, fish intake was the only dietary predictor of IBD: a high intake correlated with a lower risk. The authors speculate, "The content of poly-unsaturated fatty acids or vitamin D in fish may be of special importance for IBD."

This is because, they add, previous studies on adults have observed that higher intake of PUFAs and Vitamin D are associated with lower risk of ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease respectively.

According to the authors, the study's strength lies in being the first to "prospectively investigate the association between early-life diet quality and intake frequency of specific food groups and later IBD risk".

Not readily generalisable

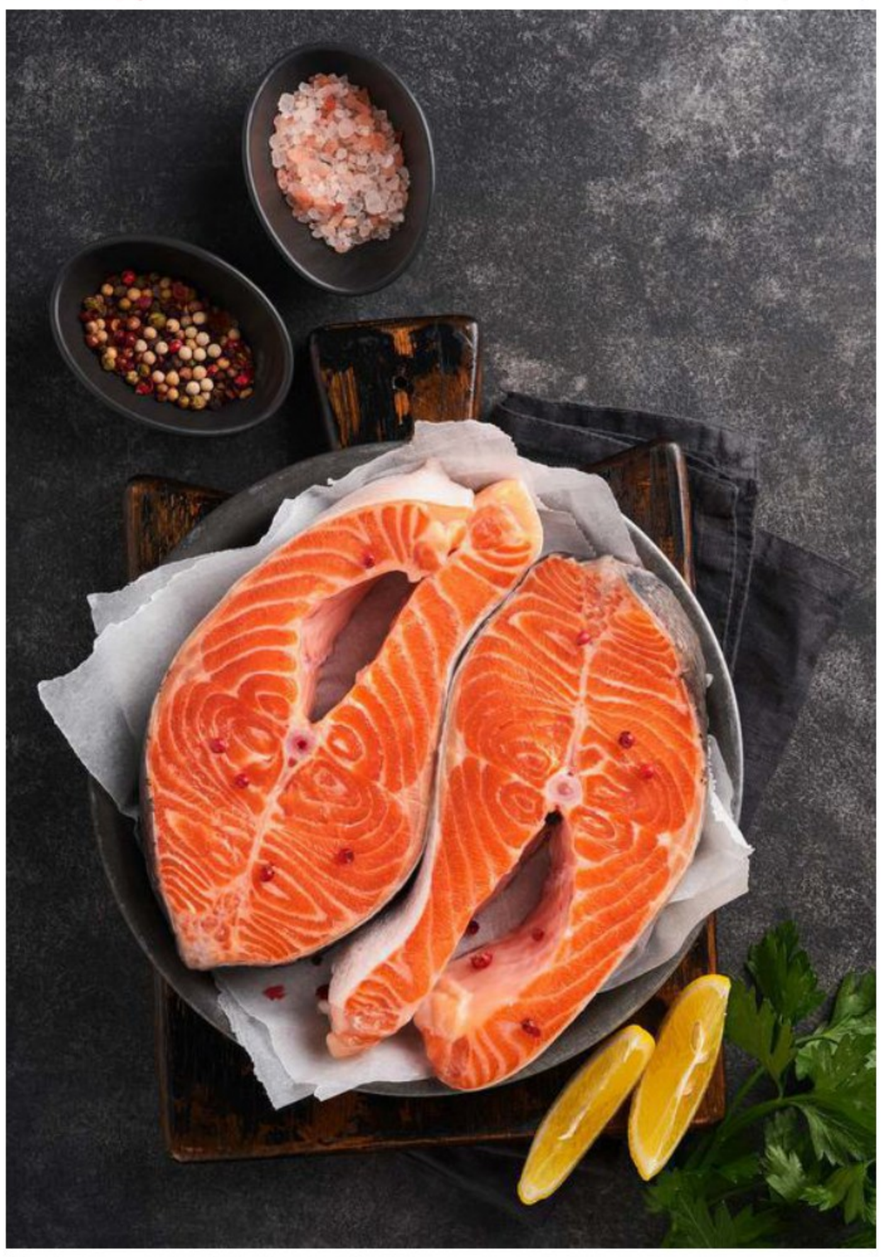
> The probability of a child developing IBD may be the result of their dietary intake and their socioeconomic status, which could affect their diet and exposure to toxins

That said, Ms. Guo, the lead author, told this reporter that "since diet and other lifestyle habits may be strongly influenced by factors such as country of living and cultural differences, our findings should be replicated in other settings before we can generalise the results to other parts of the world."

In their paper, the team added that since the study's sample came from two high-income countries, the results may not be readily generalisable to low- and middle-income countries.

Researchers know the composition of the gut microbiome composition – an imbalance of which is implicated in IBD – varies between different geographical locations and between different ethnic groups in the same area.

However, Sylvia Karpagam, a public health doctor and researcher, told this writer that instead of exactly replicating Guo et al.'s study as is, such studies in India must also account for nutritional deficiencies and dormant infections that participants aren't regularly screened for.



A high intake of fish reduced the chances of developing IBD. GETTY IMAGES

For example, activist groups have raised concerns about the Indian government's distribution of iron-fortified rice that has allegedly exacerbated complications from undiagnosed sickle-cell anaemia, thalassaemia, and dormant tuberculosis in tribal populations in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

Dr. Karpagam also suggested studies on IBD focus not on diet alone but on "multiple factors that interplay with and aggravate each other".

For example, she mentioned that the probability of a child developing IBD later in their life may be the result of their dietary intake and of their socioeconomic status, which could affect their diet and exposure to toxins, duration of breastfeeding, and their likelihood of consuming junk foods.

"These confounding variables are not taken into account and one variable gets highlighted," she said.

A 'preventive' diet for infants

Dr. Ananthakrishnan also wrote in his editorial that the study didn't account for additives and emulsifiers common in baby foods.

These compounds have been implicated in accelerating IBD by changing the composition of the gut microbiome.

Dr. Karpagam said "individual foods cannot be blanket-classified as 'detrimental' or 'beneficial' in the context of IBD." For example, she said, "some people with IBD show improvement with whole milk" while others deteriorate.

Fruits and vegetables are high in dietary fibre and a high-fibre diet is implicated in IBD development and aggravation, she added.

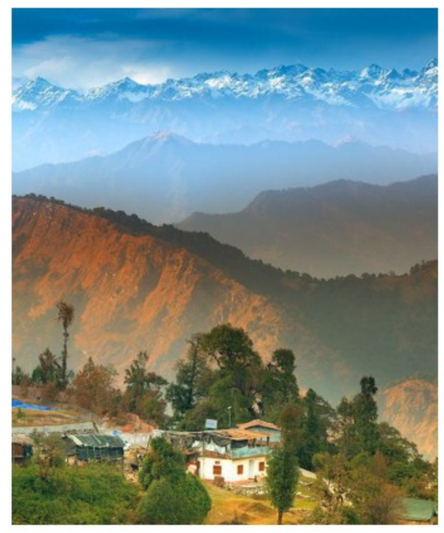
A 2021 review found that while several studies demonstrate the benefit of high-fibre diets for people with IBD, other studies show "fibre intake prior to developing IBD [to be] linked to risk of disease".

Dr. Karpagam also advised against a "preventive" diet like what Dr. Ananthakrishnan proposed. One reason is the Gut study's use of secondary data – i.e. data collected by a different researcher and not specifically for the purpose of studying the relationship between early-life diet and later development of IBD. Such data may be less qualitatively suited for a specific analysis than that collected for the purpose.

Instead, she suggested a clinical trial that could systematically follow a group of pregnant women and their infants over a period of time to study "what variables are associated with the development of IBD".

"Especially with conditions like IBD, which have been shown to be aggravated by multiple triggers and their interactions with each other, interventions that provide one or the other foods or eliminate one or the other would not be advisable," she added.

(Sayantan Datta is a science journalist and a faculty member at Krea University. The writer tweets at @queersprings)



The study finds 80% of the human exposure to heat stress in India can be avoided by adhering to the Paris Agreement. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

'3 degrees to year-long droughts in Himalayas'

Press Trust of India

About 90% of the Himalayan region will experience drought lasting over a year if the world warms by 3 degrees C, according to anew research.

The findings, published in the journal *Climatic Change*, show 80% of the increased human exposure to heat stress in India can be avoided by adhering to the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees C.

Researchers at the University of East Anglia (UEA) in the U.K. quantified how risks to human and natural systems increase at a national scale as the level of global warming increases.

A collection of eight studies – focusing on India, Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, and Ghana – found the risks of drought, flooding, declines in crop yields, and loss of biodiversity and natural capital greatly increase for each additional degree of warming.

It added that in India, pollination was reduced by half at 3-4 degrees versus reduction by a quarter at 1.5 degrees.

The team also reported large increases in the exposure of agricultural land to drought with 3 degrees of warming: more than 50% of the agricultural land in each of the countries was projected to be exposed to severe droughts longer than a year over a 30-year period.

More efforts are required to reduce global warming since the policies already in place worldwide are likely to result in warming by 3 degrees C

Economic damages associated with sea-level rise were also projected to increase in coastal nations, but more slowly if warming was limited to 1.5 degrees C.

The researchers said more efforts are required to reduce global warming since the policies already in place worldwide are likely to result in warming by 3 degrees C.

One paper explored the risks to plants and vertebrates due to increases in global warming while another developed a new natural 'capital risk register' for each of the six countries, including projected changes in risks stemming from future human population changes.

Their results in combination showed that many areas in the six countries are already at high natural capital risk at 1.5 degrees C once the effects of higher human population are accounted for.

"The results presented in this collection confirm the need for the implementation of climate policies aligned to the Paris Agreement limits if widespread and escalating climate change risk is to be avoided," said Prof. Rachel Warren of the UEA and lead author of the study.

"They provide additional confirmation of the rapid escalation of climate change risks with global warming found in the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change 2022 report, which identifies how the risk of severe consequences increases with every additional increment of global warming," Prof. Warren said.

Although these studies focus on the risks to six countries only, other nations are projected to experience similar issues, the researchers added.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Apartments take up conservation steps amid water crisis

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

The ongoing water crisis in Bengaluru, along with the government taking over water tankers, has left apartments and gated communities framing several new regulations for the conservation of water. While many communities are resorting to rationing, some have taken up steps like closure of pools and water pressure adjustment.

On Friday, after some private water tankers were seized by government officials, water resources were almost completely depleted in an apartment complex on Kanakapura Road. The apartment with 2,500 units needs around 150 to 200 water tankers a day. "We have around 75% dependence on water tankers. After that day's incident, we started water rationing (cut off water supply) from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m and 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. We are trying to build our reserves and we are able to see 20% water savings. Additionally, we are also educating residents, closed the swimming pool and have stopped unnecessary activities which require water," said a member of the apartment's resident welfare association (RWA).

He added that while the crisis is not very bad, a glimpse of how bad it could be has acted like a wake-up call.

In a similar vein, another apartment complex in Kengeri has also planned to ration water during night and maybe replicate the same during the daytime, if it results in significant savings.

"Our plumber is also going to every house and checking for leaks and installing water-saving aerators," an RWA member said.

Several apartments throughout the city have asked their residents not to wash their car multiple times a week, reuse water that is discharged from RO water purifiers for non-potent purposes, refrain from activities which would require large amounts of water, among other things.

With Holi around the corner, some communities have also asked residents to celebrate the festival in a waterless manner this time.

"Although we are not entirely dependent on tankers and get a little bit of the Cauvery water, there are still a lot of restrictions within the community. We have been asked to celebrate Holi without water, wash cars only twice or thrice a week and even then, try to wipe it down rather than use water," said a resident of a gated community in Whitefield.

'State will see above-normal temperatures this summer'

There is a high probability of above-normal rainfall over a few districts of north-interior Karnataka and south-interior Karnataka during in March, says India Meteorological Department

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The highest-ever temperature for March was 37.3°C, which was recorded in 1996.FILE PHOTO

Karnataka is likely to have a warm summer as the season will witness above-normal temperature. The summer months are between March and May and the meteorological department forecasts above normal temperature for all three months.

"There is a high probability of above-normal maximum temperature during the three months (March to May). The minimum temperature will also be above normal. During March, some districts of south interior Karnataka, including Bengaluru, are likely to experience above normal maximum temperature," said A. Prasad, scientist, India Meteorological Department (IMD), Bengaluru.

The normal temperature for Bengaluru during the months of March, April, and May are 33.4°C, 34.1°C, and 33.1°C, respectively. "There is a possibility that the temperature could go up to 35°C for a few days in March," Mr. Prasad said.

The highest-ever temperature for March was 37.3°C, which was recorded in 1996; the highest ever recorded for April was 39.2°C degrees celsius, recorded in 2016; and for May 38.9°C, recorded in 1931.

On Monday, Bengaluru city recorded a maximum temperature of 34.8°C.

Mr. Prasad also said that in some parts of the State, there is likely probability of heatwave during the three summer months.

"Above normal heatwave days are likely during these three months for some districts of north interior Karnataka and normal heatwave conditions over coastal Karnataka and south interior Karnataka," Mr. Prasad said. He added that there is a high probability of above-normal rainfall over a few districts of north interior Karnataka and south interior Karnataka in March.

"In the rest of the places, normal rainfall is likely to happen. During the next three months, we will get rains, and thunderstorms are also possible for a few days," he added.

Mr. Prasad said that this year, the State did not witness intense winter because of El Nino. During February, the monthly average temperature was 1.3°C more than normal and compared to last year, it was 1.6°C more.

"The reason why temperature has been warm is because 2023 was an El Niño year and the index was more than 1.5°C. However, it has now slowly declined and weakened and the index has come up to 1.5°C. El Niño is further expected to decline by the beginning of monsoon season and there is high probability for this to happen," Mr. Prasad said.

Met officials call it an El Niño year if the index is between 1.5°C to 2°C.

From Page One

Three PU girl students suffer burn injuries in acid attack

He spoke to 120-odd students who wrote the Mathematics paper. He commended the five students who caught Abin. Mr. Jayanna said the three girl students will be allowed to appear for the Mathematics paper in the second attempt, the examination of which will be held soon.

Terming the attack as unfortunate, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said the State government has taken serious note of the attack.

The government will plead for exemplary punishment for the accused. It will bear the expenses of treatment of the students and pay them suitable compensation.

BJP Yuva Morcha district president Nandan Mallya said the incident was an indication of the deplorable law and order in the State under the Congress government. Vishwa Hindu Parishad Mangaluru Pranta Joint Secretary Sharan Pumpwell, and Convenor of All India Democratic Students Organisation,Mangaluru Vinay Chandra condemned the incident.

DKS directs officials to take over irrigation, commercial borewells

Contractors from Tamil Nadu will also be roped in for drilling borewells. He said a meeting of the Water Tankers Association will also be called on March 7 to listen to their concerns.

"For the 110 villages of Bengaluru, from May end, Cauvery water supply will be commenced under Cauvery State 5. The next two months will be crucial but the State is fully prepared to handle the crisis," he added. A total of ₹556 crore has been allocated towards drinking water crisis. In every ward, a contact number will be provided for citizens to register complaints.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated March 5, we have a story on a proposed massive six-lane flyover on the Bannerghatta National Park. Planned to be built on the 3.85km stretch of the existing road linking Bannerghatta and Jigani Road, the flyover project has unleashed a storm of concern among environmentalists and wildlife conservationists.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (March 5, Tuesday), the following articles are available:

- Is India finally entering stage II of its nuclear programme? **bit.ly/nuclearstage**
- Big Swedish study hints at link between bowel disease, infant diet **bit.ly/boweldiseasestudy**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Deductions from man's salary towards facilities for him can't be excluded while deciding quantum of maintenance to wife: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deductions from a man's salary towards various facilities benefiting him cannot be counted, while deciding the quantum of maintenance to be awarded in favour of his wife under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), said the High Court of Karnataka.

If such deductions are taken into consideration, "then in every petition filed under Section 125 of CrPC there would be a tendency by the husband to create artificial deductions making an attempt to show lesser take-home salary with an intention to mislead the courts" to show an inability to pay maintenance or to ensure a lesser amount as maintenance, the court observed.

Petition dismissed

Justice Hanchate Sanjeevkumar made these observations while dismissing a petition filed by a man. The petitioner had questioned the August, 2023, order of a family court in Mysuru, which had directed him to pay a maintenance of ₹15,000 and ₹10,000 per month to his wife and his three-year-old daughter, respectively.

The man's plea for divorce and his wife's pleas for restoration of conjugal rights and for maintenance were pending before the family court.

"If the courts find that the deductions are artificial deductions then the courts have to consider the entire evidence on record on all its preponderance of probabilities while deciding quantum of maintenance amount," the HC said, while pointing out that the petitioner tried to show deductions from his salary just to negate the payment of maintenance.

Deductions shown

Noticing that the petitioner, who is a manager of nationalised bank's branch, earns a gross salary of about ₹1.01 lakh, the HC said that he has tried to show more than 50% as deductions towards Provident Fund contribution, house rent recovery, furniture recovery, loan obtained by him, life insurance premium and festival advances, etc., apart from income and professional tax.

However, the HC said that all these deductions, accruing to the benefit of the petitioner himself, cannot be considered while deciding the quantum of maintenance amount, as deductions towards income and professional taxes only can be excluded from the salary of the husband.

For example, the HC said if the man raises a loan for the purchase of a site, house or car, the deductions made from the salary towards such loan amount cannot be a ground for awarding a lesser maintenance amount to the wife as such deductions are for the benefit of the man himself.

Agricultural worker narrowly escapes elephant attack

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

More than 70 elephants have been roaming in parts of Sakleshpur, Yeslur, Belur, and Alur forest ranges in Hassan district

An agricultural labourer had a narrow escape in an elephant attack at Kesaguli village in Sakleshpur taluk on Monday.

Thimmaiah was working on an areca farm early in the day, when the wild elephant, identified by local people as Karadi, ran towards him.

CCTV footage

Thimmaiah ran towards the farm house for safety, and the animal chased him. The CCTV footage shows him having a narrow escape. He hid himself under a car to avoid the elephant noticing him.

Later, another worker reached the place after sensing trouble.

He looked relieved as Thimmaiah was safe. The workers call up others in the neighbouring plantations warning them to be cautious.

The entire incident was captured by CCTV cameras installed by the planter. The video clips went viral.

Over 70 jumbos

More than 70 elephants have been roaming in parts of Sakleshpur, Yeslur, Belur, and Alur forest range in Hassan district.

The local people have been demanding the capture and translocation of all elephants.

Govt. officials awaiting reposting at BBMP struggle without salaries

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Many of these officials hail from different departments and have been deputed to the BBMP

About 16 officials of engineering cadre who are awaiting reposting at the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) are struggling as they are not receiving salaries for several months. The salaries along with arrears will be credited only after reposting.

Many of these officials hail from different departments and are deputed to BBMP, which is a routine affair. The officials say it is surprising why the order for reposting is not being notified despite the BBMP being short staffed.

An Assistant Executive Engineer level officer whose parent organisation is Public Works Department (PWD) was first deputed to the Town Planning Department of the BBMP in 2018-19. He worked till 2020-21. Later he was sent back to his home department. He was again asked to report to Urban Development Department (UDD) where he is still awaiting posting in BBMP for the last seven months.

"I was not given posting due to which I am not receiving salary. A senior UDD official said that they are waiting for orders from the government. I have no clue as to why I am not being given reposting despite the government asking me to report to UDD," the official said on condition of anonymity.

He further spoke about his struggle and said he has many commitments and without salary he is now forced to borrow money from his friends. He said he does not know how long this state of limbo would continue.

Another official who is also awaiting reposting said the UDD is giving excuses for the delay in posting and according to one official the file is with the concerned minister and he has to approve reposting. "I have not been paid for the last six months. I have cut down on several expenses and also borrowed money to pay loans." he said.

A senior official from UDD said "the reposting will be done as soon as they get approval from the concerned minister. We are hoping that direction will be given soon."

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NOTICE OF POSTAL BALLOT AND E-VOTING INFORMATION

[Pursuant to Sections 108 and 110 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rules 20 and 22 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014]

NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 108 and 110 and all other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act, 2013 (the "Act") read with Rules 20 and 22 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, Regulation 44 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (the "SEBI Listing Regulations"), Secretarial Standard on General Meetings ("SS-2") issued by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India, including any statutory modification(s), clarification(s), substitution(s) or re-enactment(s) thereof for the time being in force, guidelines prescribed by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (the "MCA"), Government of India, for holding general meetings / conducting postal ballot process through electronic voting (remote e-voting) vide General Circular Nos. 14/2020 dated April 8, 2020, 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, 22/2020 dated June 15, 2020, 33/2020 dated September 28, 2020, 39/2020 dated December 31, 2020, 10/2021 dated June 23, 2021 and 20/2021 dated December 8, 2021, 3/2022 dated May 05, 2022 and 11/2022 dated December 28, 2022 and 09/2023 dated September 25, 2023 (the "MCA Circulars") and any other applicable laws and regulations, to transact the following business by way of special resolution via Postal Ballot through e-voting process:

S.No.	Description of the Resolution
1.	Alteration of Articles of Association of the Bank
2.	Appointment of Thiru.S.Sridharan (DIN – 07205781) as an Independent Director of the Bank.

The Postal Ballot Notice is being sent to the Members, whose names appeared in the Register of Members / Register of Beneficial Owners maintained by the Depositories as on Friday, March 01, 2024 (the "Cut-Off Date"), through e-mail to those shareholders, who have registered their e-mail address and through post for those shareholders who have not registered their e-mail address. The Postal Ballot Notice is also available at the Bank's website www.tmb.in and the websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.nseindia.com and on the website of NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com.

In accordance with the applicable circulars issued by the MCA, the members can vote on the resolutions proposed in the said Postal Ballot Notice only by electronic means ("e-voting"). The Bank has engaged the services of National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") to provide the e-voting facility. The detailed instructions on e-voting are provided in the postal ballot notice sent to the shareholders.

The remote e-voting schedule is as under:

Commencement of e-voting	Wednesday, March 06, 2024 at 9.00 A.M. IST
Conclusion of e-voting	Thursday, April 04, 2024 at 5.00 P.M. IST
Cut-Off date for eligibility to vote	Friday, March 01, 2024

The e-voting facility will be disabled by NSDL, immediately after 5.00 p.m. IST on Thursday, April 04, 2024, for voting thereafter. Once the vote on the resolution is cast by the Member, the same cannot be changed subsequently.

The Board of Directors have appointed Thiru.P.Sriram, (Membership No. FCS 4862) (CP No. 3310), Practicing Company Secretary of M/s.SPNP & Associates, to act as the scrutinizer, for conducting the Postal Ballot process in a fair and transparent manner.

The resolutions, if passed by requisite majority by remote e-voting, shall be deemed to have been passed on the last date of e-voting i.e., Thursday, April 04, 2024. The results of e-voting will be announced on or before Saturday, April 06, 2024, and will be displayed on the Bank's website www.tmb.in/investor's-relations and on the website of the NSDL i.e., www.evoting.nsdl.com. The results will simultaneously be communicated to the stock exchanges i.e., BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited.

In case of any queries, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Shareholders and e-voting user manual for Shareholders available at the download section of www.evoting.nsdl.com or call on toll free no.: 022 - 4886 7000 and 022 - 2499 7000 or send a request at evoting@nsdl.co.in.

By Order of the Board of Directors
For Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited
Sd/-
Prakash Chandra Panda
Company Secretary& Compliance Officer
(Membership No: ACS 22585)

Thoothukudi
March 04, 2024

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

A marginal decline in sugar output so far this year

1.19 in percentage. India's sugar production fell to 25.53 million tonnes (MT) in the ongoing 2023-24 marketing year, the Indian Sugar Mills Association said. Sugar production stood at 25.84 MT till February in the year-ago period. PTI

The budget allocated for education by the Delhi government

16,396 in ₹ crore. There is a slight decline in Delhi government allocation for education in its budget for fiscal year 2024-25 from the previous fiscal budgetary outlay of ₹16,575 crore. PTI

The fine the EU imposed on Apple over competition laws

1.8 in billion euro. The European Union levelled its first anti-trust penalty against Apple, fining the U.S. tech giant for breaking the bloc's competition laws by unfairly favouring its own music streaming service over rivals. AP

The number of visas issued by Pakistan to Indian pilgrims

112 The Pakistan High Commission issued visas to pilgrims from India to facilitate their travel to Shree Katas Raj temples in the Chakwal district. Under bilateral protocol, Sikh and Hindu pilgrims from India visit Pakistan every year. PTI

The wastewater flowing into Ganga in Varanasi: NGT

128 million litres per day. The National Green Tribunal was hearing a matter regarding the discharge of untreated water into the Ganga, hurting religious sentiments. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The status of India's nuclear programme

Why is the core-loading event of the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor being hailed as a milestone? What does the reactor do? Why has the event taken so long to materialise? What led to the delays? What are small modular reactors?

EXPLAINER

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:
On March 4, Prime Minister Narendra Modi witnessed the start of the process of core-loading the indigenous Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at the Madras Atomic Power Station in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu. A statement from his office called the occasion "a historic milestone in India's nuclear power programme".

What is the PFBR?
The PFBR is a machine that produces more nuclear fuel than it consumes. Its core-loading event is being hailed as a "milestone" because operationalisation of the PFBR will mark the start of stage II of India's three-stage nuclear power programme.

In the first, India used Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) and natural uranium-238 (U-238), which contains minuscule amounts of U-235, as the fissile material. In nuclear fission, the nucleus of an atom absorbs a neutron, destabilises, and breaks into two while releasing some energy. If the destabilised nucleus releases more neutrons, the reactor's facilities will attempt to use them to instigate more fission reactions. The heavy water in PHWR – water molecules containing the deuterium isotope of hydrogen – slows neutrons released by one fission reaction enough to be captured by other U-238 and U-235 nuclei and cause new fission. The heavy water is pressurised to keep it from boiling. The reactions produce plutonium-239 (Pu-239) and energy.

Only U-235, not U-238, can sustain a chain reaction but it is consumed fully in stage I. In stage II, India will use Pu-239 together with U-238 in the PFBR to produce energy, U-233, and more Pu-239. The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) set up a special-purpose vehicle in 2003 called Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam, Ltd. (BHAVINI) to implement stage II.

In stage III, Pu-239 will be combined with thorium-232 (Th-232) in reactors to produce energy and U-233. Homi J. Bhabha designed the three-stage programme because India hosts roughly a quarter of the world's thorium. The three stages are expected to make the country completely self-sufficient in nuclear energy.

Why was the PFBR delayed?
The PFBR saga in India has been associated with numerous delays, cost overruns, and broken promises, and has accrued many critics.

The fast breeder test reactor (FBTR) at Kalpakkam is a testing ground for PFBR technologies. It was built by 1977 but sanctions against India's 'Smiling Buddha' nuclear test forced the use of a mixed carbide fuel over enriched uranium (which France was to deliver). The former lowered the power output and changed operating conditions. By the time the Indian government green-lit the PFBR in 2003, most people who worked on the FBTR were also nearing or had completed retirement.

The Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), Kalpakkam, designed the PFBR. Its original cost was ₹3,492 crore and the original deadline, 2010. Six years later, the DAE sought more funds and an extended deadline, which the government granted in 2012 – ₹5,677 crore and commercial operations by March 2015. The nuclear power establishment further pushed the deadline to the next year, then the year after that, and so on until by March 2020, the new deadline to commercialise was October 2022. Even by 2019, its cost had ballooned to ₹6,800 crore. In a 2014 audit, the Comptroller and Auditor General found BHAVINI had fumbled the procurement of some PFBR components by becoming inordinately dependent on the Nuclear Power Corporation of India, Ltd. The result: the placement of a hundred purchase orders had a "median delay" of 158 days per order. Other causes of delay included technical difficulties with the reactor coolant.

The next stage: Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the initiation of core loading of the PFBR, at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu on March 4. PTI

How does the PFBR work?
PHWRs use natural or low-enriched U-238 as the fissile material and produce Pu-239 as a byproduct. This Pu-239 is combined with more U-238 into a mixed oxide and loaded into the core of a new reactor together with a breeder blanket. This is a material the fission products in the core react with to produce more Pu-239. A breeder reactor is a nuclear reactor that produces more fissile material than it consumes. In a 'fast' breeder reactor, the neutrons aren't slowed, allowing them to trigger specific fission reactions.

The PFBR is designed to produce more Pu-239 than it consumes. It uses liquid sodium, a highly reactive substance, as coolant in two circuits. Coolant in the first circuit enters the reactor and leaves with (heat) energy and radioactivity. Via heat-exchangers, it transfers only the heat to the coolant in a secondary circuit. The latter transfers the heat to generators to produce electricity. In a 2020 paper, former IGCAR scientist R.D. Kale wrote about several issues with getting this system to work as expected. For example, according to him, personnel working with the PFBR had expected the reactor vessel could be preheated to 150 degrees Celsius in about a month based on theoretical calculations and tests with a mock-up. But the process took more than a year in reality.

What role can SMRs play?
The delays brooked another potential complication in the form of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs). These reactor designs have a maximum capacity of 300 MW, require less land, and accommodate more safety features.

"Several countries are developing SMRs to complement conventional [facilities] since SMRs can be installed at reduced cost and time by repurposing ... infrastructure in brownfield sites," R. Srikanth, a professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru, told *The Hindu*. He added SMRs can work with low-enriched uranium, which India can import from the U.S. via its 123 Agreement. According to him, increasing SMRs' contribution would require, among other things, amendments to the Atomic Energy Act (1962) "and other related statutes" to allow private sector participation "under the oversight of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Body (AERB), with both nuclear fuel and waste controlled by the DAE" according to international safeguards.

What is the value of stage II?
The PFBR has a capacity of 500 MWe. In 2019, the DAE proposed building four more fast breeder reactors (FBRs) of 600 MWe capacity each – two in Kalpakkam from 2021 and two from 2025, with sites to be selected. Experts have said the best way to moot work on stage II technologies is to press the reactors into commercial service.

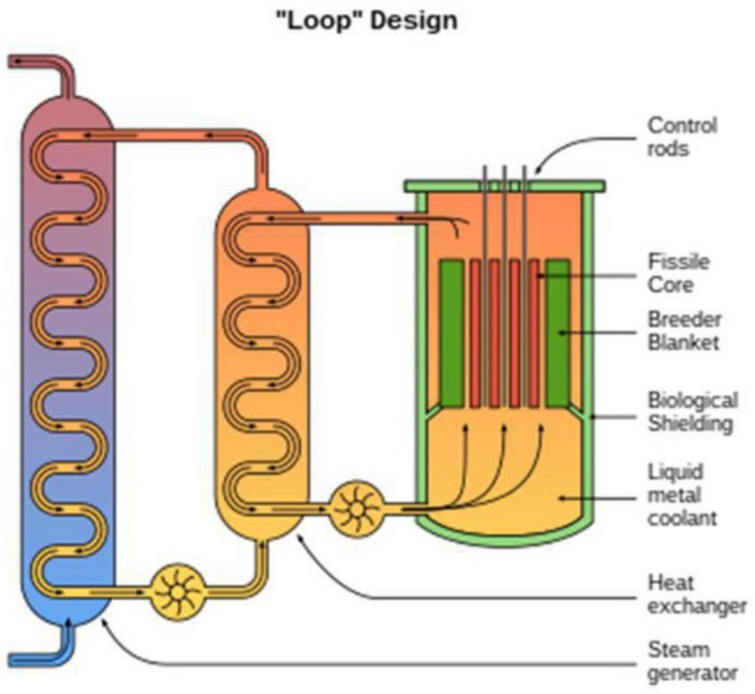
The delays haven't helped, however. In 2003, renewable sources of energy were a blip on the horizon. Today, the tariff for solar electricity is under ₹2.5/kWh whereas nuclear electricity costs around ₹ 4/kWh. The 2011 Fukushima Daiichi disaster also shifted public opinion worldwide against nuclear power, slowing work on new facilities. Today nuclear power has a new lease of life thanks to the pressure on India to decarbonise, reduce its import of fossil fuels, and give its renewable sector some breathing space. NPCIL chairman B.C. Pathak told *The Hindu* the corporation plans to "commission a nuclear power reactor every year" from 2024.

What are the challenges of stage II?
On the flip side, bigger challenges await. FBRs are harder to handle than other reactor designs, whereas the DAE has acquired an unfavourable public reputation over its often heavy-handed response to safety concerns.

Further, the civilian nuclear programme's nodal regulatory body, the AERB, was set up by executive order and reports ultimately to the DAE secretary. In 2015, the International Atomic Energy Agency urged India to set up an independent statutory atomic regulator instead.

The DAE had responded to similar concerns with the Nuclear Safety Regulatory Authority (NSRA) Bill in 2011. It sought to replace the AERB with the NSRA. But it was criticised for allowing the Union government too much control over the NSRA's composition.

Finally, among other products, the thorium fuel cycle produces caesium-137, actinium-227, radium-224, radium-228, and thorium-230 – all isotopes radioactive in ways that complicate their handling and storage.



The FBTR is a loop-type sodium-cooled fast breeder reactor. GRAEVEMOORE (CC BY-SA 3.0)

THE GIST

On March 4, Prime Minister Narendra Modi witnessed the start of the process of core-loading the indigenous Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at the Madras Atomic Power Station in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.

The PFBR is a machine that produces more nuclear fuel than it consumes. Its core-loading event is being hailed as a "milestone" because operationalisation of the PFBR will mark the start of stage II of India's three-stage nuclear power programme.

The PFBR saga in India has been associated with numerous delays, cost overruns, and broken promises, and has accrued many critics.

Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Head Office, #6,13,1 10th Block, 2nd Phase, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru-560072, Telephone: 080-222 02100
CIN : U75112KA1996PLCO200020

KREDL.01.ADMIN.10.CRM.2024 Date: 04.03.2024

NOTIFICATION

(1) Applications are invited for post of
- Consultant-Revenue matters at KREDL-Rtd. KAS (Junior / Sr. scale).
- Consultant-Revenue matters at KREDL-Rtd. Tahasildars (Grade-1 or Grade-2)

(2) The appointments are purely on contractual basis.
(3) The last date for submission of Application is: **19.03.2024, 5.00 P.M.**
For more details, please visit **https://kredl.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- General Manager-Admin.

Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Chikkamagaluru Division, Chikkamagaluru

Short Term Tender Announcement No: 21/2023-24 Date: 28.02.2024

In the Tender Notice seen above Tender is invited from eligible contractors Scheme through KPP portal (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for total 16 works under : 3054-0-337-0-05-200 State Highway Maintenance, 3054-0-337-0-05-200 District Other Roads Bridges and Drainage / Culverts Maintenance, 2059-80-053-4-00-200 Repair/ Maintenance Project of Various Departmental Buildings, and 2216-07-053-0-01-200 Repair and Maintenance Project of Residential Houses and 8443 under the Deposit contribution coming under sub division of Public Works Department, Chikkamagaluru District . Details of capacity to undertake or perform the works (as per Standard Tender Document-KW- 1, 2, & 4) shall be attached and the contractor shall be awarded the contract only if he has the minimum qualifications mentioned in Rule 3 . The minimum Approx ./estimated amount is Rs.2.50 lakhs and the maximum Approx. amount is Rs.100.00 lakhs. For Tender to be submitted by 4.30 pm on specified dates through KPP portal for 16 works (Date: 07.03.2024 for work Indent No: 9281, 9224, 9401, 9263, 9402, 9622, 9400, 8638, 8987, 9217, 9258 and 9403, Date: 11.03.2024 for work Indent No: 9576, and 9621 and date: 13.03.2024 for work Indent No: 9464 and 9463). For more details contact the Subject Manager / case worker during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Chikkamagaluru Division, Chikkamagaluru.

DIPR/ckm/No.194/23-24/ksmca/1442

Government Of Karnataka
Executive Engineer. PRE Division, Vijayanagar, 28th ward,3rd Corss M G Nagar, Hosapete

No:EE/P.R.E/D/PB/Tender/PB/Dif heads/2023-24/1847. Dated:02.03.2024

Short term tender Notification. (Through Government of Karnataka e-procurement)

Karnataka state's behalf of Governor Executive Engineer P.R.E.Divn Vijayanagara, Hosapete district has invited the Road and Building civil Min Rs.05.00Lakhs to Max Rs.200.00lakhs works. Invites Short -term tenders as per KTPP-2000 act through e-procurement for the works Vijayanagara Division under KKRDB & Different heads from the eligible contractor who are registered in PWD Dept. according to the Standard Bid Document KW I,II & III rules and regulations (As per updating in the web) based on turn-key.

Last Date for receipt of tenders: Date: **11.03.2024** (Auto Extension Specialty up to 4 Days)

Corrigendum's / modifications / correction, if any, will be published in the website only & For more information contact to ***https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in*** website and this office (email ID : eepredvijayanagara@gmail.com)

Sd/- EE.PRE.Divn Vijayanagara, Hosapete.
DIPR/Vijayanagar/464/KSMCA/2023-24

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KIRAN D'Souza, R/o No.562, 8th Cross, Lingrajapuram, St. Thomas Town, Bangalore-560084 have changed my name to Kiran Pinto vide affidavit dt: 01.03.2024 sworn before Notary Sumithra.N, B'lore

I, MARIA Janet, W/o Rajendra Prasad, R/o #34, 23rd Cross, HBR Layout, 5th Block, Ashwath Nagar, Near KEB Office, Bengaluru-560043 have changed my name to Maria Janet John vide affidavit dt: 04.03.2024 sworn before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru

I, SURENDRA, S/o. Basava Marakala, r/at 2-159, Kajralli, Yedthady, Saibarkatte, Udupi 576210 have changed my name as Surendra Marakala vide affidavit dtd 04.03.2024 sworn before Notary S.I.Balaguru, Bluru

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF MOTOR ACCIDENT CLAIMS TRIBUNAL, PALAKKAD
OP(MV) 864/2015

Hemalatha & others - Petitioners
The Managing Director
KG K Construction, Elavahalli, Chickballapur, Karnataka
[Owner of KA 40 7827] - 1st Respondent

NOTICE: Please take notice that the above case stands posted on 16/03/2024 at 11.00 A.M. for your appearance if you fail to appear in person or through a pleader you will be set exparte and the petition will be decided in your absence.

Dated this the 27th day of February 2024
P. SREENATH SANKAR
ADVOCATE

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE Public are informed that our clients Smt. VIJAYALAKHSMI. R. M. W/O Sri. VIJAYARAJ. R have entered into an agreement of sale to purchase SITE NO.6, Old Katha No.192, Present BBMP Katha No.670/192/06, formed out of Converted Sy. No.65/3, (Converted vide Order No.B.DIS.ALN.SR(S)211/92–93, dated: 17/02/1993, issued by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District), situated at VAJARAHALLI VILLAGE, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, now comes under the limits of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Ward No.198, Bangalore. Measuring:– East to West: 30–0 Feet North to South :42–0 Feet In all measuring:1260 Square Feet. And bounded on the:– East by:Site No.5 West by:Site No.7 North by:Road South by:Property belongs to Balaji Co–operative Society. Persons having any right over the said property may lodge their objections/claims with documentary evidence within 7 days from the date of the publication, to the undersigned. G C Sathya, Advocate, Flat no 310, Abhyodaya Apartment, Somanathanagar, Mysore 570033 Mob. 9611167000

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ABDUL Razaakh Anwer Pasha, S/o. Anwer Pasha, r/at #GF-B-106, Navanammi Platina Apt, Thirumenahalli, Jakkur, Bengaluru 560064 have changed my name as Abdul Razak vide affidavit dtd 04.03.2024 sworn before Notary S.I.Balaguru, Bluru

I, SHARMILA, W/o. Mohammed Ashfaq, R/at #1, Sree Building, 2nd Floor, Above Al-Bek, R.T.Nagar, Bengaluru 560032 have changed my name as Fathima Shamma Sharmila vide affidavit dtd 15.02.2024 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, Bluru

SITUATION VACANT

GENERAL

REQUIRED Kannada Telecallers. (Fresher / Experienced) Location: Malleswaram, Bangalore Salary (Rs. 15000/- per month), Working Hours: 2:00 PM to 8:30 PM, Interested give missed call to 7669250202

TENDERS

KERALA FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.GAVI DIVISION
Ph:8289821300,8289821305

DMG/ET/1/2023-24 Date: 01.03.2024

TENDER FOR THE E -TENDER SUPPLY OF TENTS

(2024_KFDC_665652_1) are invited for supplying and installing tent in ecotourism centres of KFDC Gavi Division. Last date for the submission of is 12.03.2024 at 5. P.M.

For more details :
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
www.kfdc.kerala.gov.in

DIVISIONAL MANAGER, GAVI

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TIRUCHIRAPPALLI

(An Institute of National Importance under MoE Govt. of India)
TIRUCHIRAPPALLI – 620 012, TAMIL NADU, INDIA
Date : 04.03.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

IIIT Tiruchirappalli invites sealed quotations for the following:

1. **For Providing Housekeeping Services**
2. **For Providing Vehicle**

For further details please visit our website : **www.iiitt.ac.in**

Sd/-
Registrar (i/c)

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number **1800 102 1878**
Or write to us at **customercare@thehindu.co.in**
Scan the QR code to register your feedback

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Ministry of Communication, Department of Posts, Civil Wing

PRESS NOTICE INVITING PERCENTAGE RATE e-TENDER

Executive Engineer (C), Postal Civil Division, Bengaluru invites on behalf of The President of India, online percentage rate (CPWD-7) e-tenders for the following work:

N.I.T. No.: **56/PCD/BGL/2023-24**
Name of Work: **Renovation of 6 nos toilet (3 nos. toilet each) at Eastern and Western Gents hostel block at PTC, Mysuru.**
Estimated Cost: **Rs.43,58,650/-.**
Earnest Money: **Rs.87,173/-**
Period of completion:**150 (One Hundred Fifty) Days.**
Last time and date of **submission of bid :Upto 15.00 Hrs. of 12.03.2024.**
The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.**

- Sd/-,
Executive Engineer (C),
Postal Civil Division, Bengaluru - 560032.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR.

I.F.T.No:EE/PWD/VJP/PB/8443/2023-24/4935 Dated:02.03.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement)

The- **Executive Engineer, Public Works Dept. Division, Vijayapur** Invites tenders from eligible tenderers (registered in Public Works Department) Total 3 works, As per standard bid documents KW-3 8443-Deposit Contribution head of account costing of amount for Rs. 100.00 Lakhs, the EMD amount of 2,00,000.00 for the works. For above work G.S.T amount will be paid to the Contractor separately and Increase in G.S.T shall not be paid in the extended period of Contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time. The calendar events of tenders, dates are fixed as follows (1) Pre-Bid Meeting for Contractors Date- 06-03-2024 upto 11.00 AM (2) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders Date- 12-03-2024 upto 11.00 Am. (3) Opening of Technical Bid Date-13-03-2024 at 4:30 PM. (4) Opening of Financial Bid Date-14-03-2024 at 4:31 PM. Clause-3 Conditions of Standard Bid Document may be seen in Departmental Website i.e i.e "https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in" and for more information may contact help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 91 80 46010000,+91 80 68948777) or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Vijayapur

DIPR/VIJAYAPUR/547/KSMCA/2023-24

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (Electrical), BBMP West Division, # 98, 8th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560003.

No: EE(Ele)/W/TN/03/2023-24 Date: 04-03-2024

REVISED TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub: Change in Tender Uploading, Bid Opening Dates and EMD Amount for Tender.
Ref.: Tender Notification No: EE(Ele)/W/TN/03/2023-24, Dated: 21-02-2024.

Total 42 Works Due to some Technical issues the Tender Uploading, Bid Opening Dates and Modified EMD Amount has been changed as mentioned below:

Modified Calendar of Events: 1) Tenders must be Submitted Online through KPP Portal **on or before 16.00 Hours on 07-03-2024. 2)** Technical Bid / Tender shall be Opened on **11-03-2024 at 11.00 Hours.** The above modified EMD Amount has been uploaded in KPP Portal.

Other terms and Conditions of the tenders remains the same.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Electrical) West Division, BBMP.

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Road, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand. Ph No.: +91-651-2225878,
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752,
e-mail Id- juidcolimited@gmail.com

NIT No.: JUIDCO/NIT/TH/ADITYAPUR/2024/603
Date: 04.03.2024

e-Procurement Notice Notice Inviting Tender
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

1	Name of Work	CONSTRUCTION OF TOWN HALL AT ADITYAPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, JHARKHAND
2	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 14,74,52,296/- (Rupees Fourteen Crore, Seventy Four Lakhs, Fifty Two Thousand, Two Hundred and Ninety Six) only.
3	Time of Completion	24 Months (Including Monsoon & Mobilization Period)
4	Date of Publication of Tender on Website	06.03.2024 at 2:00 P.M.
5	Last Date/Time of Submission of Bids	26.03.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
6	Last Date/Time of Submission of Bid Security Money and Tender Fee through the e-procurement website of Government of Jharkhand	26.03.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
7	Date/Time of opening of Bid	27.03.2024 at 05.30 P.M.
8	Name & Address of office Inviting tender	Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company Ltd., JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk , Ranchi, Jharkhand- 834001
9	Helpline Number of e-procurement Cell	0651-2225878

Note :Only e -tenders will be accepted.
Further details are available on Jharkhand Government e-procurement website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

sd/-
Project Director (Technical)
JUIDCO Ltd, Ranchi

PR 321460 (Urban Development and Housing)23-24*D

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients intends to purchase the residential sites No 25 & Site No 26 carved out of Sy.No.87/1, duly converted for residential purposes having Katha NO 1087, Situated at Hoysala Nandanavana Layout, Thanisandra Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru measuring East to West 60ft and North to South 80ft, measuring in all 4800Sq.Ft which is more fully described in the schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the Schedule Property SRI. Muthyala Shyam Sunder and Smt Shankar Vilasini, aged about 75 and 73 years respectively Residing at Flat No PA,4th Floor Daffodils Apartments, Trinity Fortune, Opp Mantri Apartments, Hennur Main Road, Bengaluru - 560 077, who claims to have valid and marketable title, free of all encumbrances or claims of any nature, whatsoever and in peaceful possession of the Schedule Property. If any person has any claim, right, title or interest in the Schedule Property or any objection to the proposed sale, the same may be communicated to the undersigned along with supporting documents within one week from this day. If no tenable objections are received within the said period, my clients will proceed with the transaction deeming that there are no such claims or objections.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the combined property bearing site nos 25, new Katha No.2011/A and Site no 26 New katha. No 2012/A, carved out of survey No 87/1, duly converted for the residential purposes by the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru District, Bengaluru vide Official memorandum No .B.Dis.ALN.SR (EAST)35/2002-03, dated 05/07/2002, Katha No.1087 and No1112/1087/26, situated at Hoysala Nandanavana layout, Thanisandara Village, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru measuring east to west 60 ft and North to South 80 ft measuring in all 4800 Sq.Ft and bounded on;

East by : Private Property, **West by :** 30 Feet Road, **North by :** Site No 24, **South by :** Site No 27.

(Siddharth & Associates)
Advocates
No.1053, High Point- I
PalaceRoad, Bangalore -01

Place : Bengaluru
Dated: 04.03.2024

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(MUNIRABAD DAM POWER HOUSE)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

No.: KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT 1251 Dated: 28.02.2024

ABSTRACT TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through e-Procurement Portal only) (Two Cover System)

Tenders through e-Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** mode are invited for **Supply, Erection, Commissioning, Testing and Charging of Coolers and Circulating Oil Pumps for GTs.** Last date for submission: **14.03.2024, 17.00 Hrs.** Further details can be obtained from the Office of the **Executive Engineer (O&M), MBDPH, KPCL, Munirabad - 583 233, Koppal Dist. & Tq., Mobile No. 9448290581, Tele Fax : 08539-270214, e-mail ID : eeembdphkpcl@yahoo.com**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. SnT_RDW_APPL_REL_IMP
Dated: 28-02-2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work.

Item of Work	Appx. Value
SWR-SBC Division-Road Warning Signal, Approach Locking and Reliability Improvement work at LC gates over Bengaluru division.	Rs. 1,40,51,701.82/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 15:00 hrs. of 22.03.2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer Bengaluru

PUB/721/AAV/PRB/SWR/2023-24

South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ DISTRICT HOSPITAL, BALLARI.

ಎಸ್‌ಟಿಡಿ–08392, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಶಸ್ತ್ರಚಿಕಿತ್ಸಕರು–274255 ಸ.ಆ.ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ–274254
dsballari-hfws@karnataka.gov.in bellaryds@gmail.com

e-Tender Notification No. DHB/ACT-1/DMF/TEND/01/2023-24 Date:02/03/2024

e-Tender NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from eligible Bidders for supply of Equipments to DISTRICT HOSPITAL, Ballari under Two Cover Bid System through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka as per KTPP Act 1999 & Rules 2000.

SL. No	Name Of the Equipment	Quantity	UNIT	Maximum tendar Amount Total (In Rs)	E.M.D Amount (In Rupees)
1	4K Camera System for ENT Departments	1	1 SET	79,73,968.00	1,99,349.00
2	Micro Laryngoscopy Set(MLS) Instruments Set	1			
	TOTAL (Rs)			79,73,968.00	

(1). Maximum Cost of Tender is **Rs.79,73,968.00 Lakhs (Rs. Seventy Nine Lakhs Seventy Three Thousand Nine Hundred & Sixty Eighty Rupees Only).** (2). Tender Processing Fee will be as per e-portal. (3). Tender Documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka From **02/03/2024**. (4). Last Date for Queries is on **06/03/2024 4.30 PM.** (5). Tender must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **11/03/2024 4:30 PM.** (6). Technical Bids will be opened on **12/03/2023 @ 4.30 PM.** (7). Further information may be obtained from the above office during office hours & from **website:https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**.

DIPR/Ballari/953/KSMCA/2023-24

Sd/- District Surgeon, District Hospital, Ballari

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: SEE/Tr(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-2/T-64/23-24/8200-05 Date: 04.03.2024

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPPP MODE ONLY)

KPTCL invites Tenders for the following works:

(1) Tender No:KPTCL/2023/24/SS/Work_Indent781.

Bid Enquiry No.:SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/DCA/EE(O)/AEE-2/T-64/Repair of Power Transformer_100MVA, 220/66/11KV Badeladaku(Kudligi) Dated:29.02.2024 for Dismantling, Transportation (to and fro), Repair, Testing, Erection and commissioning of sick Power Transformer of rating 100MVA, 220/66/11KV, CGL Make, Sl. No.T-10418/2 **at 220/66/11kV Substation Badeladaku(Kudligi)** in 220kV R/S Division, KPTCL, Ittagi, in Kudligi Taluk, Vijayanagara District on total turnkey basis.

(2) Tender No:KPTCL/2023/24/SS/Work_Indent754.

Bid Enquiry No.:SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/DCA/EE(O)/AEE-2/T-64/Repair of Power Transformer_20MVA, 110/33-11KV APMC RAICHUR Dated:29.02.2024 for "Dismantling, Transportation (to and fro), Repair, Testing, Erection and commissioning of sick Power Transformer of rating 20MVA, 110/33-11KV, IMP MAKE, Sl. No.PT-6902 YEAR OF MANUFACTURE 2013 LYING AT 110KV S/S APMC RAICHUR in Raichur Taluk, Raichur District on total turnkey basis".

(3) Tender No:KPTCL/2023/24/SS/Work_Indent753.

Bid Enquiry No.: SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/DCA/EE(O)/AEE-2/T-64/Repair of Power Transformer_20MVA, 110/33-11KV DEODURGA Dated:29.02.2024 for "Dismantling, Transportation (to and fro), Repair, Testing, Erection and commissioning of sick Power Transformer of rating 20MVA, 110/33-11KV, ANDREW YULE MAKE, Sl. No.13480 YEAR OF MANUFACTURE 2012 LYING AT **110KV SUB STATION DEODURGA** IN DEODURGA Taluk, Raichur District on total turnkey basis".

(4) Tender No:KPTCL/2023/24/SS/Work_Indent536.

Bid Enquiry No.KPTCL/SEE/TR.(W&M) C/MRB/23-24/MCVCB Breaker/ Karatagi. Dtd: 29.02.2024 for Replacement of age old 11 kV CGL make MCVCB's by new 11kV MEI Make MCVCB along with allied works at **110kV S/s KPTCL Karatagi** in Gangavathi Taluk and Koppal District on Partial Turnkey Basis."

(5) Tender No:KPTCL/2023/24/SS/Work_Indent537.

Bid Enquiry No.KPTCL/SEE/TR.(W&M)C/MRB/23-24/MCVCB Breaker/Koppal Dtd:29.02.2024 for Replacement of age old 11 kV MEI and AREVA make MCVCB's by new 11kV MEI Make MCVCB along with allied works at **110kV S/s KPTCL Koppal** in Koppal District on Partial Turnkey Basis."

(6) Tender No:KPTCL/2023/24/SS/Work_Indent787.

Bid Enquiry No.KPTCL/SEE/TR.(W&M)C/MRB/23-24/MCVCB Breaker/Raichur Dtd: 29.02.2024 for Replacement of age old 11 kV MEI make MCVCB's by new 11kV MEI Make MCVCB along with allied works at **110kV S/s KPTCL Raichur** in Raichur District on Partial Turnkey Basis."

(7) Tender No: KPTCL/2023-24/IND0026

Bid Enquiry No.: SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB//EE(O)/AEE-2/T-64/2022-23/EHV Grade Transformer Oil Dt. 29.02.2024_Call-4 for Manufacture, Testing and supply of EHV Grade **Transformer Oil** (in non-returnable new Steel Barrels of 210 litres capacity) required for Trans(W&M) Circle, KPTCL Munirabad.

Tenders will be received through KPPP mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in/** on hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL" or directly logging on to website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in /**on or after **06.03.2024 at 11:00 Hrs.** Details can be obtained from the office of the under signed.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Ele., Tr. (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Munirabad-583233. Ph: 08539-270094

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

Office of Chief Health Officer (Public Health) BBMP Head Office, Annex-2 Building, Ground Floor, N.R.Square, Bangalore-560002.

No: BBMP/2023-24/PR/49/23-24 Date: 04/03/2024

HR RECRUITMENT - Short term - Notification

Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike invites Applications from eligible candidates for the period of one year only for the following posts.

Applications to fill up posts of various categories for NCD Project

1) **Item Head :** Psychiatrist, **Specifications : Age Criteria:** < 35 Years **Education Qualification:** 1.MBBS, MD or DNB in Psychiatry from Recognized Medical Institution. **Experience:** Two Years of Experience in a Recognized Institutions with Computer Knowledge. **Unit cost** : Rs1,20,000/- per Month. **One Year only :** 12 Months. **Total cost :** 1440000/-

2) **Item Head :** Psychiatry social worker , **Specifications : Age Criteria:** < 35 Years **Education Qualification:** 1. MSW or M.Phil. in Psychiatry social work. 2.PHD in Psychiatry social worker. **Experience:** Two Years of Experience in a Recognized Institutions with Computer Knowledge. **Unit cost** : Rs 27500/- per Month. **One Year only :** 12 Months. **Total cost :** 324000/-

3) **Item Head :** Programme assist./ DEO , **Specifications : Age Criteria:** < 35 Years **Education Qualification:** 1.BSc / B A Pass and Knowledge of C, C++, JAVA, Linux, Excel, with Recognized Institution 2.Must have Typing Experience in both Kannada and English 3. Typing Speed must be 40 words per Minute (40 wpm). **Experience:** 1. Two Years of Experience in a Recognized institutions with Computer Knowledge. **Unit cost** : Rs 25000/- per Month. **One Year only :** 12 Months. **Total cost :** 300000/-

4) Last Date for submitting applications to office **11/03/2024 Up to 5:00 PM**

5) Date of interview and documents verification **12/03/2024 11:00 AM**

Applications may be collected from Programme officer G01, Annexe 3 Building, BBMP head office Other details can be seen in the quotation documents.

Sd/- Chief Health Officer (Public Health)

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Mahadevapura Division, Bengaluru - 560 048.

No.EE/MDP/TN/19/2023-24 Date:04.03.2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through GOK KPP Portal only) (CALL-2)

The Executive Engineer, Mahadevapura Division, invites the item rate tenders from eligible contractors for various construction works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Ward No.	Est. Cost (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)	No. of Works
Reserved for General Category				
1	97	5.00	25,000	01
2	98	5.00 & 15.00	12,500 to 37,500	02
3	99	5.00 &10.00	12,500 to 25,000	02
4	100	15.00	37,500	01
5	103	5.00	12,500	01
6	104	5.00	12,500	01
7	105	15.00 & 50.00	37,500 & 1,00,000	02
8	106	5.00 & 15.00	12,500 to 37,500	02
9	107	5.00 to 25.00	12,500 to 50,000	05
10	Demolition of unauthorised buildings in Mahadevapura Division	25.00	50,000	01
Reserved for SC Category				
11	101	15.00	18,750	01
12	105	5.00 & 15.00	6,250 &18,750	02
13	107	15.00	18,750	01
Reserved for ST Category				
14	99	25.00	25,000	01
15	101	15.00	18,750	01
			Total Works	**24**

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from GOK KPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in 2)** Pre-Bid Meeting : **11.03.2024 at 11.00 am**. 3) Last date for receipt of tenders **: 12.03.2024 upto 4.00 pm 3)** Opening of Technical / Financial Bid: **14.03.2024 at 4.30 pm**. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours & also from website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mahadevapura Division.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

GETTY IMAGES

A case to reform bail law and guidelines, but make the right diagnosis first

A large number of undertrials continue to remain in prison despite being granted bail due to challenges in complying with bail conditions. Lack of means to arrange for money/property and local sureties are the most significant reasons accounting for the inability to comply with bail conditions

Medha Deo
Mayank Labh

Recently, the Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said that there is a growing reluctance on the part of trial judges to grant bail and that jail, and not bail, was becoming the rule. In this article, dated July 26, 2022, Medha Deo and Mayank Labh further complicate the question of granting bial to undertrials, most of whom are unable to furnish the necessary bond/money to avail of bail.

Over 75% of India's prison population are undertrials while overcrowding in Indian prisons stands at 118%. These stark realities are often cited to represent the scale of the crisis in India's criminal justice system. The Supreme Court of India recently acknowledged, in *Satender Kumar Antil vs CBI*, the ineffectiveness of India's bail system and its contribution to this crisis. The Court noted that despite repeated guidelines on bail law, things have not changed much on the ground. The Court provided comprehensive guidelines on laws related to bail, such as mandating timelines for the disposal of bail applications and laying emphasis on the need to enact a separate legislation. The judgment noted that crowding jails with undertrial prisoners ignored the principle of 'presumption of innocence' and that 'bail not jail' should be the norm. However, there is still a need to reflect on why these established principles are honoured more in their breach than observance.

Any reimagination of the law on bail needs to first understand the exact nature of the problem that results in large-scale undertrial incarceration. This assessment needs to be based on multiple parameters and we have no real empirical evidence on how each of these impacts the issue. What proportion of undertrials are applying for bail? What proportion of bail applications are accepted or rejected, and on what grounds? Is bail compliance a far bigger problem than denial of bail? These are some fundamental empirical questions which need answers. An effective bail law must be based on the correlation of these answers with variables such as the demographics of undertrials, category of offences and timelines for bail, and also address socio-economic and structural barriers. The foundations of the current bail law ensure that it is anti-poor and disproportionately burdens those from marginalised backgrounds. The solutions we intend to craft must be based on a realistic understanding of the problem.

Lack of safeguards

The Court averred that effective enforcement of safeguards against arbitrary arrest would eliminate the need to seek bail from courts. However, these safeguards exclude a significant proportion of arrested persons, especially those from disadvantaged sections of society, who form the large majority of undertrial prisoners. For example, the arrest of a person is justified as 'necessary' if the police have 'reasons to believe' that it is required to ensure their presence in court. Such vague justifications put migrants, persons without assets or those with no contact with family at higher risk of arrest because of their socio-economic conditions. Data from the Fair Trial Programme (FTP) in Yerwada and Nagpur central prisons can be instructive here. Of the undertrials (2,313) represented by the FTP , 18.50% were migrants, 93.48% did not own any assets, 62.22% did not have any contact with family, and 10% had a history of previous incarceration. Evidently, a significant proportion from the sample would be unjustifiably excluded from protections against arrest and contribute to the large proportion of undertrials in our prisons.

Approach to bail adjudication

The power to grant bail is largely based on the court's discretion and depends on the facts of each case. The Supreme Court has time and again laid down principles for guiding the exercise of such discretion by courts in deciding bail applications. While these guidelines lay stress upon the need to release applicants on bail, they also validate the denial of bail or imposition of onerous bail conditions based on the gravity of the offence, character of the accused and likelihood of the accused absconding or tampering with evidence. In all such cases, courts rarely exercise their discretion for granting bail and are likely to take a more stringent approach against release on bail. Despite existing guidelines, courts do not usually record reasons for rejecting bail; the rationale behind how courts factor in offence-based and person-based considerations in deciding bail applications remains unclear.

This is important because marginalised persons bear the brunt of these broad exceptions. They are either denied bail or granted bail with onerous conditions, in absolute disregard of their realities. Bail conditions in the nature of cash bonds, surety bond, proof of property ownership and solvency, as is commonplace, are at odds with the reality of undertrial prisoners languishing in jails.

Challenges in bail compliance

A large number of undertrials continue to remain in prison despite being granted bail due to challenges in complying with bail conditions. Lack of means to arrange for money/property and local sureties are the most significant reasons accounting for an undertrial's inability to comply with bail conditions, realities borne out by our experience in the FTP. However, factors such as lack of residence and identity proof, abandonment by family and limitations in navigating the court system also undermine an undertrial's ability to comply with bail conditions. Compliance with bail conditions and ensuring presence in courts for the overwhelmingly structurally disadvantaged undertrials requires constant handholding, as is evident by the FTP's interventions in the past three years. This is a crucial aspect of ensuring last mile delivery of justice that the extant bail law does not consider.

Our experience shows that in 14% of cases, undertrials were unable to comply with bail conditions and remained in prison despite being granted bail. In almost 35% of these cases, it took over a month after obtaining the bail for undertrials to comply with bail conditions and secure their release.

Flawed assumptions

The bail system, as it currently operates, has flawed assumptions that every arrested person will be propertied or have access to propertied social connections. It presumes that the risk of financial loss is necessary to ensure the presence of the accused in court. Such assumptions have the effect of rendering the rule of 'bail not jail' meaningless for a significant proportion of undertrial persons. For any bail law to effectively provide relief, a careful re-evaluation of the said presumptions is imperative. There is an urgent need for bail reform but it would be counterproductive to undertake a reform exercise without first developing the basis to understand and diagnose the problem at hand.

Medha Deo and Mayank Labh are with the Fair Trial Programme, an undertrial legal aid initiative at Project 39A, National Law University Delhi. The programme provides legal aid to undertrials in Pune and Nagpur central prisons

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on Antonio Vivaldi, one of the greatest baroque composers, who was born on March 4, 1678

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
Why was Antonio Vivaldi nicknamed 'Red Priest'?

QUESTION 2
Vivaldi was ordained as a priest in 1703 but did not function as one because he suffered from 'strettezza di petto'. What has this ailment been interpreted as?

QUESTION 3
The composer spent 37 years of his life as a music teacher/director at the Pio Ospedale della Pietà asylum and most of his compositions were during that tenure. What sort of inmates were housed in that asylum?

QUESTION 4
The most recognised of his compositions were composed around 1718–1720 when Vivaldi was the court chapel master in Mantua. Name this group of four concerti and for which instrument were they written?

QUESTION 5
If Mozart's works are prefixed with 'K' (for Kochel Catalogue), by what two letters are compositions by Vivaldi identified today?

Visual question:
Name this famous composer, who between 1713 and 1714 transcribed at least nine concertos of Vivaldi for keyboard, strings, organ, and harpsichord.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1: This is the rarest disease in the world. **Ans: RPI Deficiency.**
2: The plot of the movie *Paa* was built around this rare disease. **Ans: Hutchinson Gilford Progeria Syndrome. Or, merely Progeria, which causes premature ageing.**
3: A speech disorder that causes a native speaker to speak with a 'foreign' accent. **Ans. Foreign Accent Syndrome. It is often caused by damage to the brain.**
4: People suffering from this rare disease have blue colour blood. **Ans: Methemoglobinemia, a blood disorder in which an abnormal amount of methemoglobin, a form of haemoglobin, is produced.**
5: The definition of Stone Man's Disease. **Ans: It transforms a person's muscle tissues into bones, and is also known as Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva (FOP).**
Visual: This rare disease among tribes in New Guinea met an end by itself when this particular habit among them was abolished. **Ans: Kuru disease. It is an acquired infectious disease linked with the ritualistic practice of feeding upon the corpses of relatives as part of mourning. Putting an end to the practice meant an end to the disease as well.**
Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan| Rajmohan. V| M. Suresh Kumar| Sanjana Veerabhadra

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Mr. P. Radhakrishnamurthy, Babu Camp, Kothagudam, wants to know which of the following is correct: (a) He came on foot (b) He came by foot."

" 'He came on foot' is correct. 'By walk' is also used commonly in India. I came by walk. This is not acceptable. I came on foot or I came walking. 'Foot it' means 'walk, not travel by bus, etc.'

It is about ten kilometres from here. But I will foot it.

'Foot it' is used when the distance is long. 'Foot' as a verb is also used to mean 'to pay a bill, especially one considered large.'

He footed the bill for the party."

"Mr. Y. Murali Nath, Old Town, Anantapur, wants to know whether 'return back' is acceptable."

" 'Return' means 'come or go back to a place.' He returned home or he came back home. 'Return back' is not acceptable."

"Mr. L. C. Venkatarangan, Korattur, Madras, wants to know which of the following is correct: (a) administer (b) administrate."

"Both are correct. Some may jump to the conclusion that 'administrate' is an Americanism. 'Administrate' was used in Britain as early as the 17th century. Most administrators administer, some administrate. 'Administrate' is not used as frequently as 'administer.' 'Administrate' is increasingly used in business correspondence."

"Mr. Y. Raghavendran, K.K. Pudur, Coimbatore, wants to know the meaning of 'watershed.'"

" 'Watershed' is 'a line of separation between waters flowing to different rivers, basins or seas.' When used figuratively, it means 'a turning point in affairs.' Politicians and journalists are fond of this word.

This is likely to be a watershed between war and peace.

Darwin's Origin of the Species was a watershed in the history of ideas.

'Watershed' is a translation of the German word 'wasserscheide' and the earliest entry for this word in the Oxford English Dictionary was in 1803."

"Mr. Y. Sreekrishna, Sripuram Colony, Tirupati, wants to know the difference between 'dissatisfied' and 'unsatisfied.'"

"When you do not get the satisfaction that you expected, you are unsatisfied.

I attended the dinner. I came away unsatisfied.

When you are dissatisfied, you are thoroughly displeased, discontented. 'Dissatisfied' is a stronger word than 'unsatisfied.'

She was dissatisfied with the arrangements he had made for the meeting."

"Mrs. Satyamurthy, Bagh Lingampalli, Hyderabad, wants to know the meaning of the idiom 'A rolling stone gathers no moss.'"

"It means that a person who moves from place to place and does not settle down will never become prosperous. He is a rolling stone. A stone which is at one place will gather moss and the moss will protect it from erosion. 'Moss' is 'a very small green or yellow flowerless plant growing in thick masses on damp surfaces or trees or stones.'"

Published in The Hindu on April 23, 1991.

Word of the day

Connive:
encourage or assent to illegally or criminally; form intrigues (for) in an underhand manner

Synonyms: intrigue, scheme

Usage: *He accused her of conniving with foreign companies.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/connivepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kəˈnaɪv/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION

Civil Engineering Department, 5th Floor, Shanthinagar TTMC, K.H. Road, Bengaluru-560027 Website : www.mybmtc.com

No.BMTC/CO/CE/EE/ 1815 / 2023-24 Dated:04.03.2024

E –PROCUREMENT SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No.46/ 2023-24

Item rate tender are invited for the work of **Upgradation of old BMTC Central Office and Annexure Building at Shanthinagar, Benglauru.** Amount put to tender: **Rs. 84.30 Lakhs.** EMD:- **Rs. 1,69,000/-**. The tender is invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public procurement ordinance of 2000, and Act 2000, from the Class-I Civil Contractors/Firms registered in Karnataka CPWD/MES and KPWD. In E-procurement the contractors/ firms will have to upload all informations documents and rates etc in website only. i.e. **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** No documents will be accepted in person physically. (1) Last date of receipt of tender: **12.03.2024.** Date of opening of tender: **14.03.2024 (2)** Any other information required can be obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer during working hours or through website: **kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, BMTC

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT DIVISION, BELAGAVI.

PH NO.0831-2463850 / FAX NO.0831-2423008

No.EE /MI&GWDDD/BGM/TND/AE-1/JE/2023-24/1320 Date:02.03.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER (2nd CALL) NOTIFICATION (KW-1&3)

As per KTTP Act-2000 and recent Amendments the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department Division Belagavi has invited the Item rate tender through KPPP (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Total 02 Nos. of Athani//Belagavi Sub Divisions Estimate Amount Highest Rs.60.00 Lakhs & Lowest Rs.1.60 Lakh. 1. Tender Receipt Last Date: 12-03-2024 Evening 16.00 PM, 2. Tender Opening Date: 13-03-2024 Evening 16.30 PM (if possible), 3. For Tender Details office address: Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department Division Belagavi & www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
M.I & GWDD Division, Belagavi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1310/KSMCA/2023-24

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer
Jayanagar Division, BBMP. 39th Cross, 18th Main, Jayanagar 4th 'T' Block, Bangalore - 560 041.

No.: E.E.(JN)/DM/e-proc/18/2023-24 **Date: 04.03.2024**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TENDER

(Through GoK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

Executive Engineer Jayanagar Division, BBMP, Bangalore invites tenders from eligible any reputed Individual / Company registered with BBMP / CPWD / KPWD and Registered Labour Contractor Organizations for the below detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work
1	Primary Door to Door Collection and transportation of segregated wet waste, sanitary waste and Street sweeping waste and Secondary Transportation in **Ward No. 148 Ejipura. Reservation:** Others. **Approximate value of work (Rs in Lakhs):** 41.37, **EMD (Rs):** 82,740/-
2	Primary Door to Door Collection and transportation of segregated wet waste, sanitary waste and Street sweeping waste and Secondary Transportation in **Ward No. 179 Shakamabari Nagar. Reservation:** Others. **Approximate value of work (Rs in Lakhs):** 26.70, **EMD (Rs):** 53,400/-
3	Improvements to Roads, Drains and Culverts in 9th Cross Road, 11th Cross Road, in Jeewangriha Colony, 3rd Cross Roads KSRTC Layout, 13th Main Road KSRTC Layout, Cross Roads Near Anganawadi No-1, 2nd Cross Road KSRTC Layout, Drilling the borewell ragigudda slum and Surrounding area in **Ward No. 185 JP Nagara.** (Call-2) Two Cover. **Reservation:** Others.**Approximate value of work (Rs in Lakhs):** 88.70, **EMD (Rs):** 1,77,400/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Pre bid meeting will be held on **07.03.2024** at **3.00 p.m.** in the office of the Executive Engineer Jayanaga Division, 18th Main Road, 39th Cross Road, Jayanagar 4th 'T' Block, Bangalore-560041. **(2)** Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **4.00 p.m.** on **Date: 12.03.2024** and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines. **(3)** Technical Bids will be opened on **13.03.2024** at **4.05 p.m. (4)** Financial Bids will be opened on **14.03.2024** at **4.05 p.m.**

Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or visit e-Procurement portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Jayanagar Division

District Urban Development Cell, Deputy Commissioner Office, Hassan District.

Telephone No: 08172-234839 Email:pdhassandudc@gmail.com

No:AEE/DUDC/ELN-2023/1,2,3,4&5/2023-24 Dated:04-03-2024

: Retender Notification :

As per Karnataka transferency in public procurement act-1999 and rules 2000 here after tender called in two cover system through e-procurement portal for procure the Cataring service, Election material procurement, Printing items, Trasportation and Videography as directed by Chief Executive Officer, State Election Commission for Hassan Parlimentary Contituency Elections-2024. The details of tender is as below. Sl.No.1)E-procurement Number DMA/2023-24/ IND1188/Call-3 Details of task:Procuring Cataring serivces for Hassan Parlimentary Contituency Elections-2024 Tender amount (including GST) (Amount in lakhs)Rs. 176.25 lakhs 2)E-procurement Number DMA/2023-24/ SE1838/Call-3 Details of task:Procuring Trasportation serivces for Hassan Parlimentary Contituency Elections-2024 Tender amount (including GST) (Amount in lakhs)Rs.22.50 lakhs 3)E-procurement Number DMA/2023-24/ SE1840/ Call-3 Details of task:Procuring Videography serivces for Hassan Parlimentary Contituency Elections-2024 Tender amount (including GST) (Amount in lakhs) Rs.24.00 lakhs Time table of tedner is as below Sl No. 1)E-procurement Number DMA/2023-24/ IND1188/ Call-3 EMD Amount Rs.4.41 lakhs Last date for submision of tender 11-03-2024, 5-30 PM Tender opening date (Technical qualification bid)13-03-2024 2)E-procurement Number DMA/2023-24/SE1838/Call-3 EMD Amount Rs.0.565 lakhs Last date for submision of tender 11-03-2024, 5-30 PM Tender opening date (Technical qualification bid)13-03-2024 3)E-procurement Number DMA/2023-24/ SE1840/Call-3 EMD Amount Rs.0.60 lakhs Last date for submision of tender 11-03-2024, 5-30 PM Tender opening date (Technical qualification bid)13-03-2024 If any chances in the schedule date it will be published through e-procurement portal Interest eligible contractor can obtain additional information through tender document which is uploaded in e-procurement portal www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Any information regarding procurement can be obtained during office hours.

Sd/- Project Director, DUDC Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೧/ಹಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/884/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿ/884/2023–24

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, BBMP, K.R. Pura Division, Old Madras Road, K.R. Pura, Bengaluru - 560036.

No: EE/KRP/TND/11/2023-24 **Date: 04-03-2024**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)

(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, (K.R. Pura Division), invites Item Rate tenders from eligible tenderers registered in BBMP / CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / any State or Central Government Organizations for the works detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Improvements to Roads and Drains at Babsapalya Village Main Road and Extension Cross Roads, Other Surrounding Layout Ward Areas in Chalakere in Ward No. 86. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 110.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,20,000/-**
2	Improvements to Roads and Drains at Kothanur Balaji Layout, Kyalasanahalli Village Cross Roads & K. Narayanapura Opp. BDS Nagara Cross Road and Agape Church Road and Other Surrounding Layout Ward Areas at Horamavu in Ward No. 87. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 140.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,80,000/-**
3	Improvements to Roads and Drains at Kalkere and K. Channasandra Village Extension Areas Cross Roads at Kalkere in Ward No. 88. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 110.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,20,000/-**
4	Improvements to Roads and Drains at P and T Layout Cross Roads and Shanthi Layout Surrounding Cross Roads at R.M. Nagara in Ward No. 90. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 140.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,80,000/-**
5	Improvements to Roads and Drains at Nisarga Layout and S.R. Layout and Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 91, K.R. Pura. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 110.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,20,000/-**
6	Improvements to Roads and Drains at Sai Serenity Layout Surrounding Areas and Seegehallli Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 92, Basavanapura. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 140.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,80,000/-**
7	Improvements to Roads at Abbaya Reddy Layout and Talacauvery Layout Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 95, Vignan Nagara. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 120.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,40,000/-**
8	Improvements to Roads at Vignan Nagara and LBS Nagara Surrounding Areas in Ward No. 95, Vignan Nagara. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 130.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,60,000/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) The tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **13-03-2024 at 11.30 Hours in the Executive Engineer Office, K.R. Pura, BBMP. 3)** Last Date for Tender Queries and Clarifications is **12-03-2024 upto 16.00 Hours. 4)** Last Date for Submission of Tender Documents **on or before 16.00 Hrs. on 15-03-2024. 5)** Technical Bids will be Opened on the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in at the Office of the Executive Engineer, K.R. Pura Division on 16-03-2024 at 16.30 Hours. 6)** Financial Bids will be Opened on the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in at the Office of the Executive Engineer, K.R. Pura Division on 18-03-2024 at 16.30 Hours.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, K.R. Pura Division, BBMP.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of the general public that **my client Mrs Caroline Andrew,** W/o Mr. Mohindr, Mr.Mohinder S Poojari S/o Mr.B.S.Poojari and Mr Bharath S Poojari Slo Mr.B.S.Poojari, All residing at No.002, Aishwarya Apts-2.S.T.Bed lay-out, Srinivagilu, Ejipura. Bangalore 560047, have negotiated to purchase the schedule mentioned property from the owner Mr.C Venkatesh, S/O late Chikkathayappa, Residing at No42, Ist Main, Ist Cross, R.A. Road, Ejipura-560047.

The vendor Mr.C.Venkatesh has represented that gift deed pertaining to the schedule property between the previous joint owners is lost. In this connection they have filed a police complaint.

Any person having objection in the said sale transaction may file objection before the undersigned advocate within seven days from the date of this notice failing which the transaction shall be completed.

SCHEDULE

All the piece and parcel of residential vacant site bearing old property no. 8/1, New BBMP No.37, PID.NO.68-104-37 situated at 5th Cross, Srinivagilu, Bangalore, Bangalore south Taluk, Bangalore-560047. **Measuring** East to West : 25 Feet, North to South: 46 Feet, Land totally measuring: 1150 Sq. feet, Bounded on:**East by:**Property of the Vendor. **West by:**Private property, **North by:** Northern portion of the same property (No. 37). **South by:** Private Property.

J. RAVINDRAN Advocate
No 310, 4th Cross, 6th Main, Viveknagar, Bangalore-569947 Mobile:- 9900609429

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH

Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari, Bengaluru - 560070.

No: EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/AE-1/40/2023-24 Dated: 04-03-2024

KPP PORTAL TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited through KPPP by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, in Two Cover System for MP, Muzarai, MLA & Deposite Grants Works. The work details can be obtained from the KPPP Website. The Tender Documents can be obtained and Submitted **on or before 22-03-2024 upto 4.00 PM.** Further details can be obtained from Website at **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Urban Dist, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/4058/ Adverto/2023-24

Government of Karnataka

KARNATAKA EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY

Sampige Road, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560012.
Phone: 080-23460460 (5 Lines)
E-mail: keauthority-ka@nic.in Website: http://kea.kar.nic.in

No: ED/KEA/ADMN/CR- 03/2024(KK) **Date: 26-02-2024**
No: ED/KEA/ADMN/CR- 03/2024(RPC) **Date: 26-02-2024**

NOTIFICATION

Direct Recruitment of Conductor (Class III) Posts Vacant in BMTC

As per the letters from Managing Director, BMTC dated: 04-12-2023, 15-02-2024, KEA will be conducting the **Common Aptitude Test** for direct recruitment of **Conductor (Class III)** vacant posts in RPC Cadre and Kalyana Karnataka Cadre. Candidate has to appear for the **Common Aptitude Test** to be conducted by KEA.

Candidates have to apply only through online by browsing the URL: **"Conductor (Class III)"** Recruitment- 2024" in the KEA Website: **https://kea.kar.nic.in.** There is no pen and paper method of applying.

i	Commencement of Entry of Application Online	**From 11.00 AM on 10-03-2024**
ii	Last Date to Enter Application details Online	**10-04-2024 upto 11.59 PM**
iii	Last Date to Pay the Fees through Online	**13-04-2024**

1) Number of Posts: **2286 + 214 (including 15 backlog posts)**
2) Educational Qualification: **2nd PUC or equivalent**
3) Pay Scale: **18660-25300**
4) Candidates are informed to visit KEA Website: **https://kea.kar.nic.in** for details about category wise classification of posts, age, eligibility conditions, Examination Papers, Mode of Selection and Appointment etc. with regard to recruitment to the said posts.

NOTE:

I) Mere applying online, appearing for Common Aptitude Test and qualifying in the said test does not confer any right to the candidate for recruitment of **Conductor (Class III),** and it is subject to fulfilling the eligibility criteria as may be prescribed by Government / Competent Authority / Selection Authority.

II) In case of any discrepancy / ambiguity arise with regard to any of the above prescribed rules / procedures, Karnataka Civil Services (General Recruitment) Rules, 1977 and its amendment rules, Karnataka Civil Services (Direct Recruitment) (General) Rules, 2021 and Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (C & R) Regulations 1982 (Amendment) 2021 shall prevail.

Sd/-
(S. Ramya, IAS)
Executive Director

DIPR/CP/4060/2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Office of the Executive Engineer Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division

2nd Floor, Zillah Panchayath Building, Kottara, Mangaluru. – 575006
Phone: 0824-2951583 e-mail: eerdwsd.dk@gmail.com

No:EE/RDWSD/MNG/Tender/AE-1/2023-24/2410 Dated:- 02.03.2024

Short Term Tender Notification

On Behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer Rural Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation Division Dakshina Kannada Invites E-Tender, eligible bidders are requested to submit through E-Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in all terms and conditions will be intimated in e-procurement. The wok details as follows

Sl.No.	Name of work	EMD
1	Multi Village Scheme to 24 Villages of Bantwala and Ullala Taluks of Dakshina Kannada District from Water Treatment Plant of Karnataka Urban Water Supply & Drainage Board (KUWS&DB) at Kairangala" on DBOT basis under Jal Jeevan Mission.	1.29 Crore

If any changes regarding this notification, further corrigendum and addendum will be issued in e-procurement portal only.

1. Closing Date of Tender : 21-03-2024 4.00 PM
2. Pre Bid meeting Date : 07-03-2024 2.45 PM at office of the Chief Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department Bangalore
3. Opening of Technical Bid : 22-03-2024 5.00 PM
4. Opening of Financial Bid : 25-03-2024 11.00 AM

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking water & Sanitation Department
D.K. Division, Mangalore

DIPR / MNG / 1504 / MPL / 23-24

GOVERNMENT OF KARANATAKA

Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department. Office of the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development epartment Division Koppal. Phone & Fax No : 08539-220054 email: eemidnkst@rediffmail.com

No:EE/MI&GWDD/Koppal/PB/TP/2023-24/761
Dated: 01.03.2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal invites tenders from the eligible tenderers registered civil contractors as per standard bid documents on E-procurement portal for 1 no of works pertaining to Raichur district. The approximate amount put to tender for the above mentioned work 469.27 Lakhs(Including GST).The tenderers may submit tenders for the mentioned work through E-procurement portal only. Two cover tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTTP act shall be followed.

For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours and all information regarding tenders can be had from website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address on or after 04-03-2024. Last date & time for receipt of tender is 12-03-2024 time 17.30 hours, pre bid meeting will be held on 07-03-2024 time 11.00 hours at this office. Date & time for opening of technical bid 14-03-2024 time 11.00 hours, date and time for opening of financial bid 15-03-2024 time 11.00 hours (If technical bid sanction is accorded by the competent authority).

Sd/-Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal.
DIPR/Koppal/510/KSMCA/2023-24

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of Chief Health Officer (Public Health), BBMP Head Office, Ground floor, Annex-2 building, N.R.Square, Bangalore-02.

No: BBMP/2023-24/PR/54/23-24 **Date: 04.03.2024**

Two -cover Short term-Quotation Notification

Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike invites short term quotations from eligible bidders for the following:

Short term quotation for the fabrication of Acoustic studio

Following are the Events of Bid process:

1.Quotation reference number Short term quotation for the fabrication of acoustic studio : **BBMP/2023-24/PR/54/23-24**

2. Documents can be Collected from office Programme officer G01, Annexe 3 building, BBMP head office. Other details can be seen in the quotation Documents From **05.03.2024**

3. Last Date and Time for submitting queries to office : **07.03.2024** Up to **5:00 PM**

4. Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting : **08.03.2024 11:00 AM** Office of the CHO 3rd Floor, Annexe-3 Building, Bengaluru-560002.

5. Amount Put To Quotation : **3,00,000/-**

6. EMD Amount : **7,500/-**

7. Last Date for submitting quotations to office : **11.03.2024** Up to **5:00 PM**

8. Date and Time of Opening of Technical Bids : **12.03.2024 11:00 AM**

Quotation documents may be collected from Programme officer G01, Annexe 3 building, BBMP head office. Other details can be seen in the quotation documents.

Sd/- , Chief Health Officer (Public Health),BBMP

BRUHATH BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer (Ele), Bommanahalli Zone, Beguru Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru-68

No:BBMP/EE/ELE/BHZ/TEND/04/2023-24 Date:04.03.2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

(Single Cover)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Executive Engineer (Elect), Bommanahalli Zone, Invites tenders in accordance With KTPP rules 2000, from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike /KPWD/CPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any other equivalent Central/State Government Organisations for Electrical work as detailed in the table.

Sl No.	Name of the works
1.	Maintenance & Repairs to BBMP Buildings coming under Bengaluru South Constituency in Ward No-202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213 Reserved for ST (Call-2) Approx. Value of Work: ₹.2.50 Lakhs EMD: ₹.3,200/-
2.	Maintenance & Repair to Electrical Yard Lighting Systems and Other Works to Electrical Crematorium and Burial Grounds comes under Bommanahalli Zone Ward No-223 (Call-2) Approx. Value of Work: ₹.15.00 Lakhs EMD: ₹.37,500/-
3.	Replacement of Burnout cables at Parks and Play grounds in Bengaluru South Constituency in Ward No-202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213 (Call-2) Approx. Value of Work: ₹.10.50 Lakhs EMD: ₹.26,250/-

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal of from **04.03.2024** by **16:00** Hrs. (2) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **12.03.2024** by **16:00** Hrs. (3) The Tenders will be opened on **13.03.2024** by **16:30** Hrs

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Elec.)
Bommanahalli Zone

Government of Karnataka

DEPARTMENT OF MINES & GEOLOGY

#49, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560001
E-mail: dir-mines@karnataka.gov.in

No. DMG/MLS/Auction/2023-24 **Dated: 04.03.2024**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Department of Mines and Geology calling tender for auction of old stock lying in the expired and cancelled mining leases under various notifications through MSTC.

Eligibility conditions, terms and conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Separate Lot wise auction notifications are published in MSTC portal. Tender Documents, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process of respective lots shall be available in electronic form only at the website of MSTC Ltd.

https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/aucsearch/search.jsp

The auction of old stock for each lot is "AS IS WHERE IS AND NO COMPLAINT BASIS". The interested bidders shall ascertain the quantity and quality of the Iron/Manganese ore before participation. The Department is not responsible for any dispute arising after confirmation of the bid.

Interested bidders may visit the MSTC Ltd website.

Sd/-
DIRECTOR
Department of Mines & Geology

DIPR/CP/4067/Zenkar/2023-24

City Municipal Council, Chitradurga – 577 501

No.: CMC:Technical(1)/Tender:J.E.:CR: 03:2023-24 Date:02-03-2024

Short - Term Tender and Tender Notification

(Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Tender Notification)

(Applications are invited for the provisions of Standard Tender Document KG, 1 & 2.)

Item-war Tenders are invited as per Karnataka Transparency Act 2000 in e-procurement two/ single cover system from eligible class contractors registered in e-procurement for for purchase of machinery and vehicles for solid waste management in Chitradurga City under 2022-23 15th fiscal common base grant , 2021-22th Undistributed Million Plus City Grant approved under Swachh Bharat Mission 1 and 2023-24th 15th Financial Common Base Grant of Rs.277.65 lakhs . For e-procurement documents applications can be submitted online through Department website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on the date mentioned below, obtain tender forms , Fill Them and submit only through website. No applications will be received in this office. "Tenderers while uploading the documents in e-procurement should not upload unnecessary documents and should upload relevant documents so as to be clearly visible in the table."Details are as below. In case the above mentioned dates are declared as holidays, the next days will be considered. For further details contact the Engineer in the Works Department of the City Municipal Council or can be obtained from website of City Municipal Council www.chitradurgacity.mrs.gov.in. (10 indents will be advertised separately and the maximum estimated amount is Rs.100.00 Lakhs) **Short - Term Tender Indent No :** DMA/2023-24/IND1491, DMA/2023-24/IND1550, DMA/2023-24/IND1551, DMA/2023-24/IND1552, DMA/2023-24/IND1553, DMA/2023-24/IND1582, DMA/2023-24/IND1554, DMA/2023-24/IND1555, DMA/2023-24/IND1556, **Full-Term Tender Indent No :** DMA/2023-24/IND1583

Sl. No	Details	Short - Term Tender : Sl No 01-09	Full - Term Tender : Sl No 10
1	Last date for submission of Applications as per Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for blank tender forms and submission of filled schedule-B	14.03.2024 up to 5.00 PM	22.03.2024 up to 5.00 PM
2	Date of opening the Tender (Technical)	15.03.2024 at 5.00 PM	25.03.2024 at 5.00 PM
3	Date of opening the Tender (Financial)	16.03.2024 at 5.30 PM	26.03.2024 at 5.30 PM
4	Application Fee (Non-returnable)	As per KPP portal Rules	As per KPP portal Rules

DIPR/Chitradurga/KSMCA/644/2023-24

Sd/- Municipal commissioner.
City municipal Council Chitrdurga.

INBRIEF

BJP women's wing to take out Naari Shakti yatra

To mark International Women's Day on Tuesday, the BJP Mahila Morcha has decided to take out a Naari Shakti Yatra in all the 224 Assembly constituencies of the State.

As part of the yatra, women members of the party would take out bike, scooter and bicycle processions, according to morcha president C. Manjula. She said the morcha had taken up three-day programmes starting from Monday itself to mark he International Women's Day throughout the country.

This included a programme involving women's self-help groups.

KSRTC to operate 1,500 extra buses for Mahashivaratri

In view of Mahashivaratri festival on March 8 and weekend days on March 9 and 10, Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has made arrangements to operate 1,500 extra buses from Bengaluru to various places. The buses will operate from March 7 to 10. Later, special buses will be operated from various intra and inter-State places to Bengaluru from March 10 to 11, according to KSRTC.

The release from KSRTC stated that special buses will be exclusively operated from Bengaluru Kempegowda Bus Station to Dharmasthala, Kukke Subramanya, Shivamogga, Horanadu, Davangere, Hubballi, Dharwad Kalaburagi, Ballari, Koppala, Yadgir, Bidar, Tirupathi, Vijayawada, Hyderabad and other places.

Coconut growers gather in panic to register for copra procurement

Many growers stood in queue for hours and some slept on the premises of APMC market on Sunday night as they were not ready to miss any chance

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Hundreds of farmers on Monday stood in queue at APMC markets in Hassan district to register their names for ball copra procurement at the support price. Even though the registration process was scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. on Monday, many reached the registration counters as early as Sunday afternoon.

The growers stood in queue for hours in Channarayapatna and many slept on the premises of the market on Sunday night, as they were not ready to miss any chance.

There were around 2,000 growers in the queue in Channarayapatna by 7 a.m. on the day.

The scene was similar at Arasikere, Nuggehalli, S.Belgola and other centres. The district administration deployed policemen to handle the crowd at these centres.

Coconut growers gathering at APMC Market in Channarayapatna of Hassan to register for copra procurement on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Following the dip in the price of copra in the open market, the Centre granted permission to procure 69,250 tonnes from the growers of Karnataka at the support price of ₹12,000 per quintal. The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation procures copra through the Karnataka State Cooperative Marketing Federation. At the rate of six quintals per acre, from each farmer, a maximum of 15 quintals can be procured.

As part of the procedure, the growers have to register their names with relevant records.

Why fresh registration

Earlier, the registration was scheduled for February 5. Surprisingly, the process ended within the first three days as the quantity of copra registered for procurement crossed the allotted limit.

There were allegations that instead of farmers, it was the traders who registered in large numbers in that short span of time. The growers staged protests, alleging irregularities in the whole process. They suspected the involvement of officers with the traders.

MLAs representing the coconut growing areas raised the issue during the recently concluded legislature session as well. Finally, a fresh request was announced on March 4, cancelling the old one.

Registration is done between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. In a day, the officials can register a maximum of 250 growers, if there is no breakdown of the network or delay in scanning. However, the number of farmers gathered is several hundred.

Srihari, Deputy Director of Agricultural Marketing at Hassan, told *The Hindu*, "The farmers are in panic, as in the previous case the process ended within three days. They do not want to miss the chance this time. A large number of people are gathering at centres. The staff can register a maximum of 250 people a day."

Of the 69,250 tonnes to be procured, the quota allotted for Hassan district is 17,500 tonnes. "The registration process will end automatically when the quantity of copra that growers offer through this process crosses this limit. Hence, the farmers are in a hurry," the officer said.

'State wants to be $1 trillion economy by 2032'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil on Monday said Karnataka has set its eyes on becoming a $1 trillion economy by 2032, by growing at a sustained rate of 18%.

The Minister stated this while addressing delegates from over 30 countries at the 54th World Trade Centers Association (WTCA) Global Business Forum, being hosted for the first time in Karnataka and for the second time in India. The event jointly organised by New York World Trade Centers Association and Bengaluru World Trade Centers Association was inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at the 54th World Trade Centers Association Global Business Forum in Bengaluru on Monday.

Listing the initiatives being taken up by the government to achieve such a target, the Minister said, "Together with the private sector, the government has been supporting manufacturers with various land and infrastructure interventions for setting up plug-and-play industrial parks and clusters on several thousands of acres of industrial land in the Beyond Bengaluru region. Modernising supply chains by connecting developed and proposed clusters to ports, rail and air would also give the sector a significant boost."

In the last five years, per capita income in the State has increased by 62% and with the huge potential for growth and untapped markets, it will continue to provide opportunities for all, he observed. The State was also partnering with technology companies to leverage industry 4.0 technologies and it will drive automation and develop AI-powered subscription products or services, he said.

"Our Industrial Policy for the period 2020-25 provides multiple financial incentives to create favourable economics for investors. Further, We will soon bring in a new clean mobility policy that aims to position Karnataka as the premier destination for Electric Vehicle (EV) manufacturing," the Minister said, while referring to the State's plans for boosting the economy.

Mr. Shivakumar, who inaugurated the event, said that Bengaluru is emerging as a global hub for education and is attracting students from around the world.

BJP-JD(S) seat sharing to be finalised in a week's time

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The seat-sharing agreement between Janata Dal (Secular) and BJP is in the final stages and will be finalised in about a week's time, former Prime Minister and JD (S) Supremo H.D. Deve Gowda said on Monday.

"Former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has already discussed the seat sharing issue with the BJP leaders. Probably there could be one more meeting before finalising the seat," the former Prime Minister told presspersons here after Rashmi Rame Gowda took over as the JD (S) women wing president.

National politics

On the chances of Mr. Kumaraswamy heading towards national politics, he said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J.P. Nadda along with Mr. Kumaraswamy will hold discussion on whether the former Chief Minister should contest or not."

Indicating that the JD(S) could provide crucial inputs to BJP, he said, "The BJP might ask us our opinion on ticket being given by BJP, and we will provide our inputs. We will work with BJP to win all the seats in the State."

Appreciating Mr. Modi for his whirlwind tour over the next few days, Mr. Gowda said, "The decision on my campaign plan will be taken after the election notification is issued. I will go where I am invited. All JD(S) leaders, including Mr. Kumaraswamy, will also travel across the State."

He also said that there is an unnecessary confusion being created in Mandya Lok Sabha constituency where the party is stronger, and that the party will hold a convention in Mandya soon.

Slogan case: BJP seeks comprehensive probe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Party petitions Inspector-General of Police to make public FSL report

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Monday petitioned the Inspector-General of Police to make public the FSL report on the videos related to alleged raising of "Pakistan Zindabad" slogans in Vidhana Soudha during the Rajya Sabha poll victory celebrations of Syed Naseer Hussain.

It also urged the Congress government to conduct a comprehensive probe on the episode.

On Monday, a BJP delegation comprising several of its MLAs from Bengaluru city including Ravisubramanya, Uday Garudachar and K.C. Ramamurthy submitted a memorandum to the IGP in Bengaluru, taking exception to the alleged delay in making public the findings in the FSL report.

Private lab report

Prior to this, the BJP had released a private Forensic Science Laboratory report on the video clip that had said, "To the limited extent of the question in this case, being whether it was 'Nasir Saab Zindabad' or 'Pakistan Zindabad', the analysis indicates that it is highly probable to be 'Pakistan Zindabad'." The BJP had tweeted this report to claim that pro-Pakistan were raised during the celebrations.

Later in the day, soon after the arrest of three persons with the case, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra said mere arrest would not help serve the purpose. Urging the government to desist from using the arrests as an eye wash, he demanded that the issue should be taken to logical end by nabbing those related to the episode and finding out their larger intentions.

Political pressure

Observing that there could be a political pressure from within for the government to protect those involved in the episode of sloganeering, he said there was a dire need to conduct the probe in an impartial manner.

Meanwhile BJP MLC N. Ravikumar demanded that the Congress government in Karnataka should be dismissed for allowing pro-Pakistan sloganeering within Vidhana Soudha. He argued that the government had done a volte face after first claiming that such sloganeering had never took place. But the arrest of some involved in the case had exposed the reality, he said.

State will provide work worth ₹4,000 crore to benefit small contractors, promises CM

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at an event organised by Karnataka State Contractors' Association in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Promising to clear the pending dues of contractors, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said that the State government has decided to provide work worth ₹4,000 crore without "package" (large contracts), in an effort to benefit smaller contractors in the State.

"I have directed the Public Works Minister (Satish Jarkiholi) to give works worth ₹4,000 crore without packages that will benefit small contractors. I have directed the Minister to provide ₹25 crore worth work in each Assembly constituency to benefit small contractors," the Chief Minister said, addressing a convention of Karnataka State Contractors' Association here.

While Union Finance Minister Nirmal Sitharaman and former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai had promised ₹5,300 crore for the Upper Bhadra project, money has not been released so far, he said, adding that despite non-cooperation from the Centre, the State government will clear dues in phases.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar urged the contractors to stay away from politics and said that he was also aware of harassment to contracts by some politicians.

"The previous government has burdened you all. While the budgetary allocation for Water resources was ₹ 16,000 crore, works worth ₹25,000 crore has been approved. A total of ₹ 1.25 lakh crore worth projects are currently being implemented in the Water Resources Department. How can contractors complete their works in such circumstances? How should the government clear the bills? We are focusing on overcoming this problem," he said.

Mr. Shivakumar said, "About ₹ 1.2 lakh crore has been kept aside for development works in the Budget. We will release a portion of money (dues) to you. We are facing problem since the Centre is not releasing the money. How should we run the government? The government is also aware of your problems. We know you bring money on loan to implement the works. Your demands will be considered after the Lok Sabha elections."

Govt. notifies rules for quick disposal of small farmers' cases in courts

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has issued a gazette notification framing guidelines for providing speedy disposal of cases to help small farmers and people from economically weaker sections in courts within six months.

President of India Droupadi Murmu gave her assent to the Bill - The Code of Civil Procedure (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2023, passed by the State legislature.

Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs H.K. Patil told reporters on Monday that with the notification of the Act and rules, small farmers and people from economically weaker sections need not wait in courts to settle cases more than six months.

He said, "Person belonging to the weaker section means a person whose annual income from all sources should not exceed ₹3 lakh."

Who is small farmer?

The Act defined that a "small farmer" is a person who holds not more than two units of land and the annual income not exceeding ₹3 lakh and his income drawn from agriculture. Under the Act, a unit meant two hectares of unirrigated land; or one and one-fourth hectares of rain-fed wet land.

> With the notification of the Act and rules, small farmers and people from economically weaker sections need not wait in courts to settle cases more than six months.
>
> **H.K. PATIL**
> Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs

It also meant that a half hectare of land has facilities for growing one irrigated crop or for growing plantation crops or grapes or coconut or arecanut or sugarcane or used for growing mulberry by irrigation.

Plantation crop

One unit also meant a quarter hectare of land having perennial irrigation facilities or facilities for growing more than one irrigated crop in a year.

Under the Act, "plantation crop" included cardamom, coffee, rubber and tea.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general Public that, I C. Muralidhar Rao, son of Late. C.L. Narayana Rao, residing at No. 160, 43rd Cross Road, 8th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560070, is the owner and in possession of the immovable Residential Property bearing Municipal No. 85 (Old No. 160), PID No. 58-94-85, Situated at 43rd Cross Road, 8th Block, Jayanagar, Ward No. 58, Bengaluru.
I have lost the original documents listed below with respect to the aforesaid property while I had done a home painting and as part of the process, I moved the materials and during this time, I have lost the below mentioned documents and in spite of the best efforts to trace, the same could not be traced.
I have also lodged a Police Complaint before the Police Officer In Charge, Jayanagar Police Station, Bengaluru vide Endorsement dated 28.02.2024.
If any person/s find/s the said missing documents, is/are requested to inform or hand over the custody of the same immediately to me.
Hence, the public is hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid property on the basis of the original missing documents. It is further notified that any such transactions entered into in respect of the aforesaid property shall be illegal and shall not be binding me or my family members.

-: LIST OF LOST DOCUMENTS :-

1. Allotment Letter issued by CITB, Bangalore in the name of Mrs. Indiramma.
2. Possession Certificate issued by CITB, Bangalore in favor of Mrs. Indiramma.
3. Other Title documents, Khata and Receipts, issued by CITB.
4. Sale Deed dated 22.10.1964, executed by Mrs. Indiramma, in favour of Mr. Surya Narayana Setty, registered as document No. 5393/1964-65 of Book I, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore City (South) and Khata.
5. Sale Deed dated 14.07.1966, executed by Mr. Suryanarayana Setty, in favour of Mr. Narayan Rao, registered as document No. 273/1966-67 of Book I, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Jayanagara, Bangalore.
6. Khata in the name of Mr. Narayan Rao, issued by the competent authority.

C. MURALIDHAR RAO
160, 43rd Cross Road, 8th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560070
Mobile: **7975664461**

Date : 01.03.2024
Place: Bangalore

BNP: What is needed is a bypass and not a flyover, say experts

Can the already stressed green space abutting Bengaluru be protected from the latest onslaught by exploring alternative alignments to the proposed Satellite Township Ring Road? question experts

Rasheed Kappan
BENGALURU

File photos from the Bannerghatta National Park. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Less than 100 metres wide at many stretches, can the Bannerghatta National Park (BNP) accommodate a massive six-lane flyover without posing a severe threat to its wildlife and ecosystem? Its buffer zone already shrunk, can the endangered green space be protected from the latest onslaught by exploring alternative alignments to the proposed Satellite Township Ring Road (STRR)?

Planned to be built on the 3.85km stretch of the existing road linking Bannerghatta and Jigani Road, the flyover project has unleashed a storm of concern among environmentalists and wildlife conservationists. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) says it will install effective noise barriers and restrict construction hours. But will these be enough to address the grave risks posed both in the short and long terms?

Severe threat of fragmentation

Faced with very high man-animal conflict and encroachments, BNP is already reeling under severe threats of fragmentation, reminds conservationists. "The Park has a unique distinction of hosting large mammals including the tiger, elephant, gaur, dholes and others right at the edge of a metropolis. Though it is connected to Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, the national park is a very linear protected area with several parts of the forest area already used for tourism, zoo and other activities," notes conservation biologist Sanjay Gubbi.

This mandates extremely effective mitigation measures. "It needs to be ensured that the measures are planned and designed based on scientific studies and not on an ad-hoc basis. It should involve a good understanding of wildlife movement patterns especially that of elephants," he points out.

Habitat reduction

But the flyover project runs counter to this rationale. Sanjay explains, "This new road project will reduce the habitat available for elephants and increase the conflict in the long run as there are nearly 100 elephants that use the landscape. For sustainable development we really need to zone our landscapes and earmark where wildlife gets priority and where development gets importance."

Strategically located on the Northern side of Mysore Elephant Reserve, Bannerghatta park also serves as a critical link for the migration of elephants from the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary in Krishnagiri and the Hosur Forest division in Tamilnadu. Geographically, the park is also a key watershed for streams such as Rayathmala Hole, Muthyala Madu halla, Antaragange Hole and rivers Arkavathi and Suvarnamukhi.

In March 2020, the Centre had reduced the eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) around BNP by 100 sqkm. The zone area shrank to 168.84 sqkm from 268.9 sqkm, earmarked by a 2016 notification. Commercial mining, stone quarrying and setting up of crushing units are effectively banned within the ESZ.

By 2008 itself, an Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Centre for Ecological Sciences (CES) study had found about 120 human settlements within five kilometres km from the BNP boundary and five human settlements within BNP. Many of the settlements formed thereafter were through encroachments of forest lands. Tribes dominate the settlements located close to the park boundary in the South-East, and South-West and depend on agriculture and livestock rearing for livelihood.

Early warnings

The study's projected land use of 2027 depicted the loss of forest cover from 41.38 to 35.59% and an increase in urban area from 4.49 to 9.62 % due to various layouts in the periphery. Barren land area showed a reduction from 4.17 to 3.36 % by conversion of open spaces to urban. "The forest cover present in southern parts represents minimal disturbances (connected to Tali reserve forest and Cauvery wildlife sanctuary) while the Northern portion shows more transitions," the study noted.

In a clear warning, the study said, "The uncontrolled and unplanned growth of greater Bangalore would have an irreversible impact on forests of BNP. The regions of Koli Farm gate, Batterayana Doddi village, Weavers colony, Kalkere region and Bannerghatta village, Anekal road represents higher loss in forest cover due to new paved surfaces created in the form of townships. The barren lands and fallow lands near to state highways and major roads were converted as layouts resulting in creating new agriculture areas in gomala and other fragmented forests."

"The flyover project will aggravate the human-animal conflict. We are shrinking their habitat and making them more and more vulnerable. That is why we need to be really careful about this project. Leopards, for instance, keep straying into settlements. Then people become more reactive and start killing, or demand like in Wayanad to start culling. It is so unrealistic," says Dr. T.V. Ramachandra, who anchored the study along with his team.

No scientific basis

Alternatives to the road through the park are indeed possible. But, as he points out, "We don't have a scientific basis in designing or formulating the project. We implement it because large amounts of money are involved."

Flyover projects do exist in other forested areas. But there is a difference here, as Sanjay reiterates. "The experience in other forests has been mixed. When highways are made in forests that are vast in size, then a flyover may be the only solution. However, Bannerghatta is a very narrow stretch of forest. That is the concern. Anything like this is going to affect the animals."

Dr. Ramachandra draws attention to other problems related to vehicular emissions.

"During the construction stage too, there will be impact while erecting pillars and more. Besides, there are issues linked to climate change. The Park acts as a carbon sink for Bengaluru. More than 1,200 deciduous trees will be lost and there are many medicinal plants too," he explains.

An elevated flyover inside the park will effectively bypass villages that are inside Bannerghatta that rely on road connectivity, says Sanjay. "I don't know how they will address this by providing connectivity. That is something which only the Detailed Project Report (DPR) can tell us."

The State Wildlife Board has already cleared the project. Questions are now being raised whether it explored other alternatives. As an insider indicates, the proposals are usually not circulated in advance to the members to help them understand and deliberate on it. "Agenda is given in the meeting, so nobody has a clue about anything," the insider says, preferring anonymity.

Going To School and BT Group organise Match Day 2024

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru FC Head Coach, Gerard Zaragoza with girls at the Going to School event.

Going to School, a not-for-profit trust, in partnership with the Government of Karnataka and BT Group, recently organised 'Match Day 2024' to celebrate the power of sport to equip girls with digital and life skills to succeed in life and solve for the biggest challenge of our time, Climate Change.

Going to School has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Karnataka to run the Outdoor School for Girls, a skills sports educational program for girls in Government Schools.

Going to School aims to equip 2.7 million girls with football, life, sustainable and enterprise skills they need to complete their education and move from the pitch to leading enterprises that solve for Climate Change in the city and create jobs, said a release.

The Outdoor School for Girls project delivers sport (football) with digital, life, STEM, and Sustainable Entrepreneurial skills through an integrated curricula to girls in Government schools in India. From Grades 5-10, during school hours, the programme is designed to equip girls with the skills they need to complete their education, moving from the game they have designed on the pitch to the wider canvas of the city, kick-starting sustainable enterprises.

Ian McBride, Head Responsible Business - India, BT Group said, " Going to School and the Outdoor School for Girls is a terrific opportunity to bring digital skills at scale via sport that support BT Group's global manifesto goal to ensure technology is inclusive and for everyone."

WestBridge Capital pledges ₹25 cr. to Ashoka Trust for research

Previously, with the support of the investment firm, ATREE had established the Centre for Policy Design to bolster its capacity to convert research to on-the-ground impact

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Workshop with forest department. SPECIAL ARRAGEMENT

WestBridge Capital has pledged ₹25 crores to Bengaluru-based Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) to strengthen linkages between science and policy in the environment sector in India.

Previously, with the support of the investment firm, ATREE established the Centre for Policy Design to bolster its capacity to convert research to on-the-ground impact. "Moving the needle on policy requires bridging the gap between academics, civil society, and policymakers. ATREE is well positioned to develop such insights from rigorous and long-term research that can support effective decision making and shape public policy discourse," said Sandeep Singhal, Managing Partner, WestBridge Capital.

The Centre for Policy Design (CPD) at ATREE focused its initial efforts on socially and ecologically responsible restoration. With the fresh funding, ATREE plans to expand the Centre's footprint to broader thematic areas aligned with the research focus areas of the organisation.

Environmental risks

"Mitigating the impact of environmental risks requires immediate but thoughtful action that is at the heart of the Science-Practice-Policy interface. For such action to translate into meaningful impact, a long-term vision that is backed by strong and unwavering commitment is needed. ATREE is grateful for the support provided by WestBridge Capital in building this much needed capacity" said Anita Arjundas, Executive Director, ATREE.

Inter-disciplinary knowledge

ATREE has been consistently ranked among the top 20 environmental think tanks globally and the top two in Asia by the University of Pennsylvania Go To Think Tank Index.

Established in 1996, the research institute has been focusing its efforts to generate interdisciplinary knowledge for achieving environmental conservation and sustainable development in a socially just manner, to enable the use of this knowledge by policymakers and society, and to train the next generation of scholars and leaders.

"Environment and conservation policies in India should have a strong and robust scientific foundation, and be adaptive and responsive to the needs of a diverse set of stakeholders and circumstances. This is where we will leverage 25 years of ATREE's pioneering efforts in fostering interdisciplinary science in sustainability practice to meet the most urgent challenges of the ongoing climate and biodiversity crisis." said Abi T. Vanak, Director - Centre for Policy Design and Senior Fellow, ATREE.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 5, 1974

Take over of Theatres & Film Distribution Urged

Bangalore, March 4: The nationalisation of cinema houses and of film distribution agencies, greater attention for minor irrigation and afforestation works and revamping of the education system, were some of the suggestions made in the Karnataka Assembly to-day during the resumed discussion on the Governor's Address. Mr. R. Dayananda Sagar (Cong) endorsed the State Government's stand that if Maharashtra did not want the Mahajan Commission's recommendations Karnataka too did not want it. He "condemned" the atrocities on the Kannadiga women in Maharashtra during the recent incidents and demanded that the Maharashtra Government should compensate for the losses suffered by Kannadigas.

Students Demand Probe into Charges Against Varsity

Bangalore, March 4: The Students' Federation of India has urged the State Government to conduct an enquiry into the charges of corruption in the Mysore University. The General Secretary of the Karnataka Branch of the Federation, Mr. M. K. Bhat told newsmen here today that students of the Mysore University were 'disgusted' with the state of affairs in the University. He alleged that 180 admissions to the post-graduate courses in the University were illegal He said a research scholar. Dr. Ramalingam was assaulted by some "goonda elements". But the Government did not care to probe into it.

CITYBEATS

Launch 'n' talk

MARCH 5
Champaca is launching the book, *Redemption*, by Harish Vasudevan today. The author will be in conversation with Karthika VK from Westland Books. The book, a thriller, revolves around a 17-year-old girl looking forward to freedom from school and going clubbing her friends -- until things take an unexpected turn.
At Biere Club, 6.30pm. Details on champaca.in

Sing along

MARCH 16
Indie pop singer, Darshan Raval, will be performing in Bengaluru soon. The concert is a part of the singer's India Tour. Raval started as a contestant on reality show *India's Raw Star* in 2014, and is known for songs like "Ek ladki ko dekha To aisa laga', 'Ek Tarfa Hawa banke', 'Tera zikr ', 'Mahiye Jinna Sohna to name a few.
Tickets and details on Insider and Paytm

Live action melody

MARCH 17
Bollywood playback singer, music director, dubbing artiste and actor, Sonu Nigam will be performing in Bengaluru. Some of his Kannada film songs, such as hits *Mungaru Maleye, Anisutide yaako..., Ninnannu Nodia* to name just a few, have hit the charts. Tickets, priced at ₹1000 are available on BookMyShow.
At Bharatiya Mall of Bengaluru

ACP Bhawani is back

Anuja Chauhan speaks about her first bazaar novel, *The Fast and the Dead*, the return of the avuncular ACP Bhawani and how Pankaj Tripathi who plays him in the Netflix movie helped give a face to a vibe

Marvels in the marketplace Author Anuja Chauhan. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mini Anthikad Chhibber

ACP Bhawani Singh is back in Anuja Chauhan's latest whodunit-romance, *The Fast and the Dead* (Harper Collins). There was serendipity in his return, the 53-year-old author says. "When I wrote *Club You To Death*, I was working with an idea of this pudgy, gentle oldie who radiates so much sympathy that people can't help talking to him."

Bhawani, Anuja says, was a vibe, not a face. All that changed with *Murder Mubarak*, based on *Club You to Death*, that is dropping on Netflix this March. Directed by Homi Adajania, the film features an ensemble cast including Sara Ali Khan, Vijay Varma, Dimple Kapadia, Karisma Kapoor, Sanjay Kapoor, Tisca Chopra, Suhail Nayyar and Pankaj Tripathi as Bhawani.

"I kept picturing him (Tripathi) in my head, as I wrote," says Anuja. "That was a little hard to break out of. Luckily, he's quite a dream casting, in fact a lot of my readers are saying when they read the book, they were imagining Pankaj as Bhavani..."

Club You to Death about a trainer who ends up very dead in a posh health club is set in Delhi. *The Fast and the Dead* moves the action to Bengaluru – Bhavani is on holiday. When a jeweller dies in Habba Galli, Shivajinagar, there is no shortage of suspects from the local veterinarian, Jhoomar Rao, to superstar Haider Sait and several others.

That the jeweller's wife broke her Karwa Chauth fast (that some women observe for their husband's long life) before the moon came up does not help matters. "The book pairs two issues that have come up often in my life, and which have always intrigued me – street dogs (menace or blessing?) and Karwa Chauth (faith versus feminsim)."

As with most issues nowadays, Anuja says, a street dog is never just a street dog. "One heated WhatsApp altercation with your neighbours, and swiftly he/she rises to become a barometer of your decency, your patriotism, and your standing in society. Ditto with Karwa Chauth – keeping it or not should be a matter of individual choice, but society is not content to let it be just that."

Every topic seems to have become incendiary nowadays, Anuja says. "Street dogs, parking slots, loudspeakers, vegetarian-non-vegetarian, the fact that a stray frisbee thrown by kids could knock down an oldie...We're all cramped and crowded and we all have a huge amount of entitlement. I chose stray dogs because I love them, and I especially love the fact that (as Bhavani says in the book) they don't follow human hierarchies – they tend to snarl at billionaires and grovel before beggars."

Living in Bengaluru rural with Nandi Hill views and leafy roads empty enough to cycle on, Anuja has recently acquired "a teeny-tiny flat" in the heart of the city. It is walking distance from all the main shopping and party districts, and of course my muse for this book – Shivaji Nagar."

It is the energy of the bazaars that attracts Anuja who says there is much magic in them

The *Battle For Bittora* author has described *The Fast and the Dead* as her first bazaar novel. "I love bazaars. My grandfather's house is walking distance from Ajmal Khan Road in the capital and we would head there for anything or everything – from birthday cakes, paan or midnight ice-cream to getting dupattas dyed, and blouses matched. There's so much magic in a walk through a bazaar, such a sensory overload – colour, energy, texture, neon, dust, sequins, sweat, smoke from the tandoors, blessings from beggars, and sassy comments from the vendors."

It is the energy of the bazaars that attracts Anuja. "The intimacy, and the fact that a good time doesn't cost very much, the magic is accessible and the thrills are cheap. Nobody ever went broke shopping in a good, old-fashioned bazaar."

When she wandered into the lanes behind Bengaluru's Commercial Street, Anuja says, "All my Ajmal Khan Road, Karol Bagh senses, got up and started to do a happy dance. It was all so familiar, and yet so new. People are so much gentler here, the spaces are so much cleaner and Karol Bagh never had the amazing syncrenetic vibe that Shivaji Nagar has, which I love. Churches, mosques, temples, all in row and everybody *swalpa* adjust *maadi*ing! The fact that so many people speak Hindi there didn't hurt either."

When we last spoke about setting a novel in Bengaluru, Anuja said she was working on getting the keys of the city. "I think it was the language. I took Kannada lessons for three months, and while I am far from fluent, I can at least communicate!"

Something old, something new

Ruth Dhanaraj

A treasure trove of art is now open at Gallery G where art lovers, students and anyone with a keen sense of aesthetics, can revel in the wondrous creations of some of the best artists our country has produced.

Titled, The Masters & The Modern: An Amalgamation of the Old & New World Classics, the exhibition curated by Archana Shenoy can be considered a sequel of sorts to a show of the same name presented by the gallery in 2021.

"Masters and Modern is a show we conceptualised in 2021, where we displayed some of the greatest masters and most well-known modernists of India such as Raja Ravi Varma, Jamini Roy, Abanindranath Tagore and others. That exhibition was rather well received and we found its title gave us flexibility to work within the art space," says Archana.

"The purpose of this show is to expose the residents of Bangalore to the work of artists from across India, especially those they might not be too familiar with. While we've maintained the original title, the artists on display this time round are completely different," she says, adding the team chose masters from the Calcutta Artists' Group, the Bombay Progressive Artists' Group and the Progressive Painter's Association of Madras.

A heart for art Some of the exhibits on display at The Masters & The Modern. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"We've got artists from all of these spaces and each one is a big name in their own right. For instance, from the Bombay Progressive group we have masters K H Ara and Ram Kumar, as well as those who have followed in their footsteps such as Manu Parekh and A Ramachandran," she adds.

Artists on display include KG Subramanyan, Badri Barayan, Achuthan Kudallur, Bose Krishnamachari, Prokash Karmakar, FN Souza, Ganesh Pyne and Isha Mahammad among others.

The gallery offers curated walk throughs every Saturday that span about an hour during which visitors can learn more about the artists and their style of working.

"Whenever we put together something at the gallery, the intention is never that people should come see, enjoy or buy, but rather that they should learn something new. Some of the works that are in this show are unique in nature," says Archana, going on to explain how it was a conscious decision on the part of the curatorial team, not to display any of MF Hussain's works that depicted horses.

"The horse was one of most recognised images in Hussain's work, but very few people know that he did a lot of architectural drawings as well."

"On display at Gallery G is an untitled work of Hussain's dated February 18, 1985, where he has designed an office space in the form of an artwork; it was perhaps a place for himself. Again, not many people knew he used to design and craft furniture for friends."

Multifaceted artists used to do different things and a lot of these pieces are on display at Masters & Modern, says Archana.

The curatorial team took over six months to put together this exhibition featuring 65 works of art (paintings only, no sculptures) by 22 of the most high-profile artists of the country.

The Masters & The Modern will be on display at Gallery G, Lavelle Road till March 31. Call 70224 43338 to book a slot for a walk through a day in advance.

Fighting falsehoods

In an era where misinformation and fake news wreak havoc on democratic processes, *Love Jihad and Other Fictions*, attempts to highlight the falsehoods tearing the secular fabric of the country.

Authored by a trio of experienced journalists – Sreenivasan Jain, Supriya Sharma, and Mariyam Alavi – the book takes a deep dive into the conspiracy theories alleging that India's minorities are conspiring to undermine the country. This narrative, once confined to fringe elements, has found its way into mainstream discourse, fuelled by politicians, media, and a deluge of social media content, especially as the Lok Sabha elections loom on the horizon.

The book's timely release underscores the critical need for journalistic scrutiny to debunk divisive theories that not only polarise communities but also distort electoral outcomes. The authors' research and investigative prowess shed light on the dangers of such misinformation, aiming to foster a well-informed electorate.

Sreenivasan, a journalist known for his investigative work and coverage of major events for NDTV, and Supriya, the executive editor of *Scroll*, with her experience in conflict and political reporting, bring their expertise to the fore. The authors will engage in a conversation with Dhanya Rajendran, co-founder and editor-in-chief of *The News Minute*, followed by a Q&A session with the audience, promising an enlightening discussion on combating misinformation in India's volatile electoral landscape.

On March 05, 6.30pm to 8pm, at Bangalore International Centre. Free entry on a first-come-first-served-basis on RSVP and availability. More information at bangaloreinternationalcentre.org.

Elephant tramples woman, triggers protests

The incident happened on Monday morning and the victim died en route to a hospital; wild elephant also attacked another resident; Congress holds protest at Kothamangalam town before post-mortem examination could be conducted; Kerala govt. says aid given to family members of victim

The Hindu Bureau
IDUKKI

A 70-year-old woman was trampled to death by a wild elephant at Kanjiraveli near Adimaly in Idukki on Monday morning. The deceased was identified as Kanjiraveli resident Indira Ramakrishnan.

According to officials, the incident occurred around 9.30 a.m. on Monday. Local residents rushed her to hospital. But she died en route to the Kothamangalam taluk hospital. The elephant also charged at Kanisseri Shaji, another resident, while he was tapping rubber.

Meanwhile, the Congress launched a protest with the victim's body in Kothamangalam town around noon before an inquest and post-mortem examination could be conducted. Idukki MP Dean Kuriakose, MLAs Mathew Kuzhalnadan and Eldhose Kunnapillil, and Ernakulam District Congress Committee president Muhammad Shiyas led the protest.

The police resorted to cane charging around 2.30 p.m., pulled down the makeshift tents erected by the protesters, and shifted the body back to the taluk hospital on an ambulance around 3 p.m. Mr. Kuzhalnadan and Mr. Kunnapillil began a hunger strike at Post Office Junction at 6 p.m. demanding compensation to the victim's family and a permanent solution to man-wildlife conflict.

Tragic death: Body of elephant attack victim Indira being taken to hospital for autopsy. SPECIAL ARRANGMENT

Minister for Law P. Rajeeve said the alleged forceful seizure of the mortal remains of the victim from the mortuary without the permission of the mourning family members and before the inquest and post-mortem was unheard of in the history of the State. He said the government has handed over a compensation of ₹10 lakh to the family of the victim.

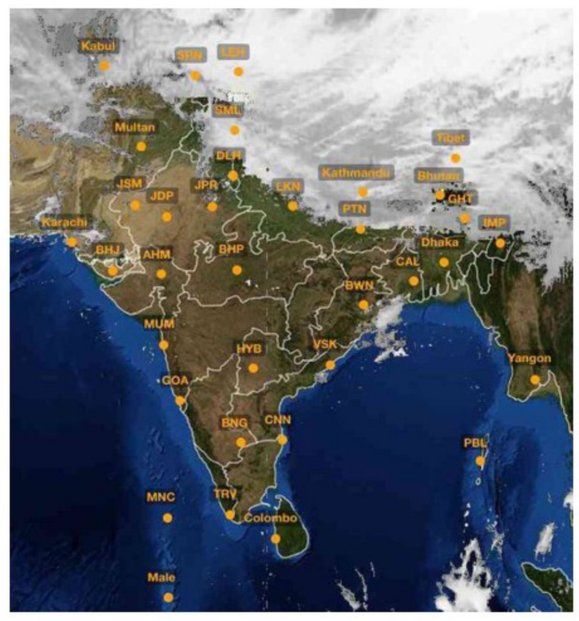
After a post-mortem examination, the body was handed over to the relatives. Indira is survived by husband, Ramakrishnan, and children Shibu, Sindu, and Sheeja.

A senior Forest department official said that on Monday morning, a herd of wild elephants entered the Neendapara area. "Forest officials and Rapid Response Team (RRT) members chased the animals to the Nagarampara range around 7 a.m. But one elephant crossed the Periyar and moved to Kanjiraveli. The woman was on the farm and came under attack," said the official.

Within two months, five people lost their lives in wild elephant attacks in the Munnar forest division.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.6	18.0	Kozhikode	—	36.5	26.4
Ahmedabad	—	28.4	13.3	Kurnool	—	39.1	25.1
Aizawl	—	26.7	—	Lucknow	7	25.9	14.3
Allahabad	1	27.0	18.4	Madurai	—	36.6	22.7
Bengaluru	—	34.8	20.3	Mangaluru	—	32.8	24.6
Bhopal	—	27.3	10.0	Mumbai	—	29.4	17.9
Bhubaneswar	—	35.7	23.4	Mysuru	—	34.2	—
Chandigarh	7	22.6	8.9	New Delhi	—	24.9	9.5
Chennai	—	32.1	23.6	Patna	2	29.1	17.4
Coimbatore	—	36.5	22.2	Port Blair	—	31.8	24.1
Dehradun	27	22.0	9.5	Puducherry	—	32.2	23.2
Gangtok	—	17.9	10.0	Pune	—	34.7	15.2
Goa	—	31.2	21.6	Raipur	—	33.6	23.7
Guwahati	—	30.2	16.2	Ranchi	27	26.8	15.4
Hubballi	—	35.0	20.0	Shillong	—	20.2	10.0
Hyderabad	—	35.6	21.7	Shimla	—	13.4	2.8
Imphal	—	24.3	11.3	Srinagar	1	12.0	-2.0
Jaipur	—	24.6	10.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.8	25.5
Kochi	—	32.2	27.0	Tiruchi	—	35.5	22.6
Kohima	—	20.8	9.8	Vijayawada	—	34.8	21.7
Kolkata	—	32.5	22.0	Visakhapatnam	—	32.4	24.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	9	149	.73	85	114	
Bengaluru	.13	.79	.52	97	131	
Chennai	.7	.16	.77	96	90	
Delhi	.15	.71	.33	184	155	
Hyderabad	.2	.31	.36	64	109	
Kolkata	.13	.56	.26	145	110	
Lucknow	6	.13	.59	35	45	
Mumbai	—	231	.26	38	60	
Pune	108	160	112	56	60	
Visakhapatnam	.13	.46	.18	95	120	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 319 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Kashipur, Uttarakhand recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

PM visits Kalpakkam nuclear power plant

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday witnessed the commencement of "core loading" at India's first indigenous Fast Breeder Reactor (500 MWe) at Kalpakkam near here. He took a tour of the reactor vault and the control room of the reactor.

India has developed comprehensive capabilities spanning the entire spectrum of the nuclear fuel cycle. The government had approved in 2003 the creation of Bhartiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (BHAVINI) to operate India's most advanced nuclear reactor-Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR), said a statement. The PFBR has been fully designed and constructed indigenously by BHAVINI with contributions from 200 Indian industries. Once commissioned, India will be the second country after Russia to have commercial operating Fast Breeder Reactor, it added.

In terms of safety, the PFBR is an advanced third generation reactor with inherent passive safety features ensuring prompt and safe shutdown of the plant in the event of emergency, the official statement said. FBR also offers great advantage in terms of significant reduction in nuclear waste generated,

I will not allow DMK to loot money meant for the people, says Modi

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

BJP leader and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the ruling DMK was worried it was not able to loot money pumped in by the Centre for Tamil Nadu's development, as it was crediting money under various schemes to the accounts of the people through the direct benefit transfer (DBT).

Referring to various projects being implemented by the Central government in Tamil Nadu, Mr. Modi charged: "DMK people are facing difficulty in looting this. So, the family here is deeply worried."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the public meeting held in Chennai on Monday. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

The DMK (leaders), he said, were thinking if they could not loot the money, they could at least take credit for these works but in vain. "Let me tell the DMK, I will not allow you to loot the money meant for the development of the people of Tamil Nadu. And the money, which you have looted, shall be retrieved and given to the people of Tamil Nadu. This is Modi's Guarantee," he said at a BJP public meeting at the YMCA grounds in Nandanam, Chennai.

Mr. Modi also said some people were unable to stomach the success of the BJP, whose reach was increasing day by day. Attacking the DMK government ahead of the Lok Sabha poll, he said the former did not help the people when Cyclone Michaung hit Chennai and neighbouring districts while they were marooned and suffering. On the other hand, according to him, the BJP government in the Centre was working for Tamil Nadu's development.

Elaborating on his development campaign for the State, he said Chennai and Tamil Nadu had a big role to play, as the country was poised to become one of the top three economies of the world. He coined the slogan 'Viksit Bharat, Viksit Tamil Nadu' (Developed India and Tamil Nadu).

Mr. Modi said several urban infrastructure projects for Chennai were initiated by the BJP government in the Centre worth thousands of crore and listed out various projects.

KSU activists, Kerala police clash over student's death

The Hindu Bureau
KALPETTA

Chaos descended on the Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University at Pookode in Wayanad on Monday with Kerala Students Union (KSU) activists clashing with the police.

The violence unfolded when the activists marched to the university raising a slew of demands, including handing over the case in connection with the death of Sidharthan J.S., a second-year Bachelor of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry student, to Central agencies for an impartial investigation.

They also demanded a solatium of ₹1 crore to his family, adopting legal action against university officials involved in the crime, dismissing teachers who protected the accused, registering murder case against the accused, and the resignation of CM Pinarayi Vijayan.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Auction for leasing of Parcel Space, Parking & Out of home advertisement / publicity

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Auction for the following work.

1. Catering & MPS: 06/03/2024, 07/03/2024, 14/03/2024, 19/03/2024, 21/03/2024, & 22/03/2024
2. Parcels: 11/03/2024, 12/03/2024 & 13/03/2024
3. Advertising & ATM Contracts on: 11/03/2024, 13/03/2024, 18/03/2024, 27/03/2024 & 28/03/2024
4. Parking & Pay and Use: 11/03/2024 & 12/03/2024, 15/03/2024 & 26/03/2024
5. MISC: 06/03/2024, 13/03/2024 & 20/03/2024

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Bengaluru

PUB/720/AAV/PRB/SWR/2023-24

South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of General Public that our Client is intending to purchase immovable property bearing New Municipal No. 257/135, BBMP Khatha No. 311/257, (then Gramatana Property Khatha No. 257/135), situated at Bhattarahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, BETQ, Bangalore, now coming under the limits of BBMP, with building standing thereon and bounded on the East By :Property of Siddappa Gowda, West By : 8 feet Passage, North by: Property of Byanna, South by: Property of Makkalu Mariyappa, Measuring E-W: 21 feet, N-S: 25 feet, in all measuring 525 sq ft, from its owner **Mr. G.S. SANKAR,** S/o., Late, K. Subramani, No. 1/32, Road Street, Pulimedu, Vellore, T.N-632105, Any person/s having objections to the said transactions can register their claim/s with documentary evidence with the undersigned **within 15 days** of publication hereof, failing which, our client will proceed with the transactions and any claim/s received thereafter will not be entertained.

H.V.NAVEEN KUMAR RAO & H.V.SUNIL KUMAR RAO
ADVOCATES
No. 57, 1st Floor, Veerapillai Street, Bengaluru-01. **Mob : 9341380225**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of my client **Sri. Mahanth Nayerkere @ Mahanth.N** to bring to the notice of the general public that the Original Sale deed dt.23.04.2005, Doc.No. 1829/2005-06 of Book I, CD No.BASD163, in the office of the Sub- Registrar Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore in respect of Flat No.D-211, in Second Floor of Block 'D' of the building known as "Raja Rajeshwari Nivas" measuring of Super built up area 773 Sq.ft., and 491 Sq.ft., of Undivided share rights in Property bearing Municipal No.393/28-291 and Khatha Nos.484 to 495 and presently bearing Khatha No.495 Situated at **Hongasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk** and measuring 113256 Sq.ft., has been lost at the time of travelling. All the persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said Sale deed. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within **7 days** from this present along with that Police Complaint is also given vide **Lost Report No.0919211/2024, dated 06.02.2024.**

Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-78. **M : 9916343921**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the General Public that my Client has entered in to an Agreement of Sale for purchase of Residential site/property more fully described in the Schedule hereunder from **SRI.HANUMAIAH,** Aged about 84 years, S/o Late Sri. Marulaiah and his first Son namely **SRI. MURALIKRISHNA.H** both are residing at No.44, 3rd Main, 4th Cross, Near NBV School, Kengeri Satellite Town, Kengeri, Bengaluru-560 060 and his second Son **SRI. MANJUNATH .H** residing at No.41/A, Sumanth Nilaya, 3rd Main, 4th Cross, Kengeri Satellite Town, Kengeri, Bengaluru-560 060. If any person/s has/have any right, title, interest or claim on the below mentioned Schedule Property, they may file their objections with the undersigned along with documentary proof **WITHIN 15 (FIFTEEN) DAYS** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which my Client will proceed to complete the sale transaction as the same is free from all encumbrances/claims. Any objections received thereafter shall not be entertained/ considered.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing BDA Site bearing **No.1626** (one thousand six hundred twenty six), in the layout formed by Bangalore Development Authority, Situated at **5th Block, "F" Sector Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, Bangalore,** measuring East to West: 12.00 meters, North to South: 9.00 meters, in all measuring **108.00 Square Meters,** presently bearing Property ID No. 6000074781, and bounded on :

East by : Site No.1611
West by : Road
North by : Site No.1625
South by : Site No.1627

(U.L.SOMAPPA) Advocate & Notary
 # 708/41, Upstairs, Sree Ramanjaneya Road Srinagar, Bangalore-560050.
(M) 94480 50108, 98806 14954
Bangalore Date : 05-03-2024

EMPERYAN
No.490, 2nd Main, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560 003.
www.emperyan.org
emperyan@emperyan.org
emperyantrust@gmail.com
Tel : 80-47484567

To whomever it may concern,

Our organization is dedicated to conducting our operations with the utmost integrity and transparency. We are committed to issuing donations and profits to investors based solely on legitimate earnings derived from our parent company, which operates abroad. It is imperative to clarify that we do not engage in any illegal activities, including Ponzi scams, MLM schemes, pyramid schemes, or any form of money doubling operations.

Regrettably, we have recently been made aware of multiple complaints from individuals across various states regarding unauthorized collection of funds by imposters who have fraudulently used our organization's name. We wish to emphasize that we do not have any branches or authorized individuals authorized to collect financial contributions on our behalf. We vehemently disavow any association with such activities and do not endorse or entertain any form of financial favoritism.

If any member of the public has been misled or has unwittingly parted with their money due to promises of unrealistic returns made by these imposters, we urge them to take immediate legal action against the perpetrators. We are currently pursuing legal measures against all individuals who have unlawfully obtained funds using our organization's identity.

It is important to note that neither our organization nor its affiliates bear any responsibility for the actions of these fraudsters. We remain committed to upholding the highest standards of ethical conduct and vow to continue safeguarding the interests of our stakeholders.

Geetha N Yadav, Advocate, # 492, 4th Cross, K.N. Complex, Malleshwaram, Bangalore - 560 003.

Sincerely,
Abhilash, Managing Trustee

City Municipal Council, Ramanagara
Ramanagara District - 562 159.
Ph. : 080 - 2727 1286, E-mail : ka.ramanagara.cmc@gmail.com
Website : www.ramanagaracity.mrc.gov.in

No. : CMC/ES/Eproc/CR/06/2023-24 Date : 01-03-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through KPPP Portal Only)

As per Karnataka Tender Transparency 1999-2000 act 2000 rule accordingly Tender has been invited under signed Officer through KPPP Standard Tender Documents under the Limits of CMC Ramanagara 2022-23 SFC Special Grants. Eligible Contractors registered in Public Work Department can participate for the work Tender Called through **kppp portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Maximum Estimated Amount is Rs. 100.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount is Rs. 82,510,** Participant can upload through **kppp portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in within Dated : 11-03-2024 upto 5.30 p.m. as informed all the required Documents to be Submitted. For more information Contact Engineering Section of CMC Officer and also from the Official Website : ka.ramanagara.cmc@gmail.com**

Sd/- Administration, CMC, Ramanagara. DIPR/Ramanagar/555/Manipal/2023-24 **Sd/- Commissioner, CMC, Ramanagara.**

EDUCATION HUB

A Business Initiative

Accenture - Databricks Training Launch event In association with RNS Institute of Technology

For RNSIT, it is adding another feather in its cap as M/s Accenture choose RNSIT for launching their prestigious new joiner's training program event. Top Leaders from M/s Accenture - Mr. Mukesh Chaudhary MD and Lead - Data and AI, Mr. Amar Bafna, MD - Accenture Data & AI, Mr. Prakash Trivedi - Accenture India Data Practice Lead , Ms Juhi - HR Manager and Mr. Sebastian Furtal from Databricks were part of this program. RNSIT along with dignitaries from M/s Accenture launched the event by lighting the lamp. On behalf of RNSIT, Mr Mukesh Chaudhary was felicitated in the event. The dignitaries conveyed to the students importance of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence and delivered an important message to students on how dedicated they have to be towards the company and what can they give back to the society.

Perceptions : Management Fest at Ramaiah Institute of Management

The two day event Perceptions held by the students of RIM filled with pomp and vigour drew inspiration from musical instruments. The event saw participation from 25 colleges across India. The theme for the event was Swara- rhythm in management. The events started with the Cricket tournament with winners being from RIM itself. The overall champions of Perceptions presents Swara 2024 were KLE College, Belgaum. The event ended with a cultural culmination evening graced by the presence of Vasuki Vaibhav as the chief guest, Anirudha Shastry, Sunil Koshy and band, Gaurav Hebbar and band followed by a special performance by DJ Troizon. The students got inspirational insights from Vinay Parameshwarappa of Gully Tours and Kishore BS of Stockbyte. It was an amazing networking opportunity and an event that tested the participants skills while also enhancing them and having fun. The students vision and creativity created this platform for students to showcase their talents and unleash their potential making it an unforgettable experience.

Ambitus World School Inauguration and Ambigala Winter Series Grand Finale

Ambitus World School (AWS) Bengaluru marked a momentous occasion with the grand inauguration, graced by eminent dignitaries. This significant event also marked the concluding celebration of the Ambigala Winter Series, held at the Ambitus World School Bengaluru campus in Electronic City, Chandapura. The occasion was marked by the esteemed presence of Padma Shri A S Kiran Kumar, Former Chairman of ISRO, Special Guest Shri B Shivanna, MLA Anekal Constituency, and Shri Mahesh Srivastava, Regional Director of South Asia at Cambridge Assessment International Education. Ambitus World School (AWS) Bengaluru marked a momentous occasion with the grand inauguration, graced by eminent dignitaries. The occasion was marked by the esteemed presence of Padma Shri A S Kiran Kumar, Former CM of ISRO, Special Guest Shri B Shivanna, MLA Anekal Constituency, and Shri Mahesh Srivastava, Regional Director of South Asia at Cambridge Assessment International Education. The event concluded with the collective optimism and enthusiasm expressed by all dignitaries, anticipating a future where Ambitus World School continues to inspire and shape the leaders of tomorrow.

Xavier Institute of Management & Entrepreneurship (XIME) Bengaluru hosts International Conference

XIME in collaboration with The University of Adelaide, hosted a ground-breaking International Conference on Emerging Trends in AI for Industry and Education: Opportunities and Challenges. Eight International AI experts and 14 Indian AI Experts spoke at the conference. The event attracted a diverse audience of over 200 delegates, representing various industries and academia, including distinguished international participants and speakers. The conference commenced with an invigorating opening address by Prof. J Philip, Founder and Chairman of XIME Bengaluru, who highlighted the importance of AI in today's context and how it is likely to impact the future of workforce. The other dignitaries Prof. Noel Lindsay, Pro VC of The University of Adelaide, Dr. Sreerama Murthy, a Global AI Expert, Dr. Sreerama Murthy, a Global AI Expert, Prof. TG Sitharam, CM of AICTE and Dr. S Somanath, CM of ISRO & Secretary, Department of Space, provided unique insights into the intersection of AI with cutting-edge scientific research in the space applications. They spoke and provided unique insights into the intersection of AI with cutting-edge scientific research in the space applications.

'Anveshana-2024' Science & Engineering Fair attended by Malnad College of Engineering along with students of Vijaya English School

Kavya Y G, Nithya G R, Lekhana H & Dhanush H V, Civil Engineering students of Malnad College of Engineering along with students of Vijaya English School, Thrubhuvan S Gowda & Sujan M had participated in 'Anveshana-2024' Science & Engineering Fair held at Shikshaka Sadana, Bengaluru. They presented the project titled 'Smart Water Quality Monitoring Device'. This event was organized by Agastya International Foundation in collaboration with Synopsys.

Tepid trade-offs

World Trade Organization continues to struggle to foster free and fair trade

The latest meeting of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) apex decision-making body concluded late on Friday with precious little progress on key issues that affect global trade, despite extending deliberations by a day. To be clear, hopes for any significant outcomes from the 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) in Abu Dhabi were not high to begin with. Yet, this was an important moment for the WTO to deliver on its mandate amid an increasingly fractious environment for the very rules of trade it seeks to enforce. The intervening period has delivered significant shocks to the global trading architecture such as the ripple effects of conflicts in some parts of the world, the disruptions on critical shipment routes that are expected to linger for long, and recalibrations in supply chains to reduce dependence on single suppliers such as China. An increasing inward-looking tendency among nations has also catalysed isolationist, tariff-heavy trade policies that run adrift of the WTO's primary purpose of open trade for the benefit of all. The Abu Dhabi declaration does refer to some of the challenges, such as the need to ensure open, inclusive and resilient supply chains, but there is little of substance beyond lip service.

Divergences between the WTO's 164 member-countries persisted on most issues carried forward from Geneva (MC12), including areas of particular interest to India, such as a permanent solution in agriculture for public stock holding to ensure domestic food security or subsidies to the fisheries sector. The WTO Director-General, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, has noted that the agriculture deliberations, in the works for over two decades now, have made some progress as there is finally a text to work with that the body will strive to clinch in future parleys. The exemption from customs duties for e-commerce, that India had sought an end to, citing the adverse impact on countries' revenues, will now carry on for at least two more years. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has nuanced this outcome stating that India is "not necessarily" fully opposed to them. Prospects for the resuscitation of WTO's dispute resolution body, rendered defunct for four years, remain bleak, though the Geneva commitment to revive the vital body by 2024 was reiterated. A key win for India at the MC13 was its successful efforts with South Africa to thwart an attempt that was led by China and backed by over 120 countries, to introduce an investment facilitation pact into the WTO framework. Going forward, India will have to redouble efforts to retain policy space for sensitive sectors, especially farms. The WTO itself must do much more to stay relevant in an increasingly polarised world. That members find it convenient to tout its failed biennial meetings as successes is a sad commentary on its waning efficacy.

What's in a surname?

Women should not be tied to the name of their husbands

In the quest for equal rights for women in all spheres of life, every act that justifies hierarchy, othering, and a patriarchal mindset must be shunned totally. Seeking the right to choose her own identity, Ms. Divya Modi Tongya, had petitioned the Delhi High Court that she be allowed to revert to her maiden name after her divorce comes through. She landed in court after running into a barrier in the form of a government notification which said a married woman who wants to use her maiden name after divorce must either furnish divorce papers or a no-objection certificate from her husband. The Delhi High Court has sought the Union government's response by May 28, the next date of hearing. In her plea, Ms. Modi Tongya states that the notification is "gender biased" and creates unnecessary restrictions for women who seek to exercise their constitutional right to choose their name – in her case a change of surname – by violating Articles 14, 19 and 21. The very idea of an NOC is objectionable, divorce proceedings or not, and is reflective of a deep-seated misogyny that wants to control an individual's preference. Ms. Modi Tongya should be able to choose whichever surname she is comfortable with and not have to fight for it.

Women have often complained of harassment when they have taken the path less trodden. For instance, women who have decided not to opt for their husband's surname after marriage face a barrage of unnecessary questions and a mountain of paperwork while, say, opening a joint bank account, or during a child's admission in school, or applying for a passport. A society that is already battling caste-based hierarchies should not add to the discrimination by giving an upper hand to anyone in a relationship, but work towards safer spaces without gender bias, difference and humiliation. In India, the most populous country in the world, stark gender disparities persist, both politically and socially. Women do most of the unpaid work at home, and are often edged out of the labour force for various reasons. What a girl or a woman can – and cannot – do, is often laid down by the men in the family; sometimes women too acquiesce to such indignities in the name of tradition. The United Nations has said that the greatest human rights challenge in the world right now is achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls. Paying lip service to rhetoric that women are equal without effecting change on the ground with legislative backing and strong social frameworks defeats the purpose.

Sandeshkhali, the untold story

Dwaipayan Bhattacharyya

is Professor at the Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

There are two routes to Sandeshkhali in West Bengal. One takes you through a Hindu-Muslim divide. The other through the acquisition-deprivation divide. Both stories are compelling and powerful.

In the first story, the name of the villain is Trinamool leader Sheikh Shahjahan, and the victims are the Hindu women. The story fits into the long tale of Muslim attacks on the hapless Hindu whenever and wherever the Hindu is weak or in a minority, be it in Bangladesh, Pakistan or places such as Sandeshkhali. The strength of this story reinforces a sweeping narrative that has gained traction in West Bengal in recent years, restoring the festering wounds of Partition. The problem is that in Sandeshkhali the story is not only partial but also false. The immediate perpetrators of alleged crimes against women here are Uttam Sardar and Shibaprasad Hazra, both non-Muslims. The third is Ajit Maity, whom the villagers of Sandeshkhali attacked last week.

Under public pressure, Mamata Banerjee's police arrested all three men, though Sheikh was absconding. That he had been spared for so long helped to feed the allegation of Ms. Banerjee's Muslim 'appeasement' with an eye to the forthcoming elections. Hindus are all but in 'minority' in both Sandeshkhali blocks: 70% in one and 77% in the other, mostly belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

A crisis of governance

Rather than a Hindu-Muslim strife, Sandeshkhali quintessentially reflects the crisis of Mamata Banerjee's model of governance. Unlike in many other States where people form collectives around caste, tribal, linguistic or religious identities, in West Bengal's post-Partition strife for life and livelihood, people clung to different political parties for both protection and provisions.

During the long rule of the Left Front, due to the well-coordinated structure of the hegemonic CPI(M), partisan affiliations of individuals and groups got further reinforced in offering the master key to enter public life. Party affiliation gave people an identity which, in turn, created a fusion called party-society. In the twilight years of the Left Front, the educated middle class party leaders were slowly but steadily getting replaced at the grassroots by enterprising individuals representing either relatively well-off farmers or those running small trade and businesses. With the Left Front's defeat, the most ambitious of these local political managers changed sides and joined the Trinamool Congress (TMC).

> Sandeshkhali is an apt example of franchisee politics, told through two compelling and powerful narratives

Ms. Banerjee realised early on that although she had to work with party society, she could not run a government the CPI(M) way. In her party, she alone drew universal authority without any stable hierarchy of command. She compensated for this in a three-pronged manner. She brought some key bureaucrats and police officers, irrespective of their rankings, under her direct command and placed her faith in them over party workers. She befriended ethnic, caste and religious community leaders, and inducted them in the party. Moreover, she extended protection to the local party chieftains to expand their dubious businesses in lieu of complete personal loyalty. These enterprising political managers were quick to leverage their political power – in cahoots with the local administration and police – for usurping as much profit as possible from legal and illegal businesses involving land, forest, sand, coal, fisheries, foodgrains and siphoning off cash from various government schemes and contracts. Most of these people are from relatively rich peasant households who earlier lost land due to the Left Front's land reforms but eventually were positioned in places of power – first in the CPI(M) and thereafter in the TMC.

With West Bengal's steady industrial decline, these enterprising individuals are now the main employers in the informal economy. Such a combination of power and profit has created cronyism of small capital in West Bengal's vast swaths of rural and semi-urban settlements. These micro-appropriators and also political leaders cash in on Ms. Banerjee's popularity for running personal fiefdoms. They eliminate all possible challenges to their local power and prosperity, routinely forcing Opposition parties to withdraw their candidates in the panchayat elections.

The TMC embodies such a two-way flow of might and money spread over 'leased out' zones of control and command to its key players. Note, the structure primarily stands on absolute material gains and uses people's vague faith in Didi's 'good intentions' as its moral hinge. In a long essay, I have called it 'franchisee politics' ("Of Collaboration and Conflict: Mamata Banerjee and the Making of 'Franchisee Politics' in West Bengal", *Economic & Political Weekly* (*EPW*), September 9, 2023).

The essence of Sandeshkhali

Sandeshkhali is an apt example of franchisee politics. The crisis sparked off when the Enforcement Directorate (ED) officers went to Sheikh Shahjahan's house. They were attacked by the locals. Even journalists were not spared. For the locals, Sheikh is a patron-provider of their livelihood. Sheikh's name surfaced during an investigation of a Public Distribution System (PDS) scam in which a large amount of foodgrains was allegedly siphoned off to the open market. In October, the ED arrested Jyotipriya Mallick, former Minister of Food and Supplies in Ms. Banerjee's government. Sheikh reported to him. While Mallick ran his fiefdom over North 24 Parganas district, he 'sub let' the two blocks of Sandeshkhali to his deputy Sheikh, who, in turn, 'sub let' Sandeshkhali Block-II to Shibu Hazra. Hazra 'sub let' Sandeshkhali Gram Panchayat to Uttam Sardar. A clear chain of profit and power was drawn, which constitutes the lifeblood of the TMC.

When the chain snapped

Why did the chain snap? It snapped because the equation flipped with Mallick's arrest and Sheikh's absence from the scene. As the media focused on Sandeshkhali, the locals found enough courage to open their mouths. They made two specific allegations: that the TMC leaders like Hazra and Sardar illegally seized their farmland and turned them into private fisheries without any compensation. And the TMC workers routinely called women from the village to the party office late in the night and sexually abused them. The first is a classic case of the reversal of land reforms in which the Left Front in the late 1970s and early 1980s had distributed privately held agricultural land above a fixed amount among the landless and the land-poor peasants. The second is a typical demonstration of monstrous masculine power by activists of a political party bereft of any binding ideological-moral discipline.

Predictably, the TMC now attempts to distance itself from the Sheikh, Hazra and Sardar. And the Bharatiya Janata Party is on an overdrive to paint it as exploitation of Hindu women by Muslim goons. With the party's massive occupation of the Opposition space in Bengal today, it may find fertile ground to further polarise the turf in the days ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. Yet, the untold story of Sandeshkhali is one of the usurpation of absolute power to misappropriate property from the poor in a reversal of land reforms and rejection of local democracy by an emergent class of rural rich, pampered and promoted by the Trinamool Congress.

The quick transformation of Russia-North Korea ties

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In the middle of a series of actions that are fuelling tensions in the Korean peninsula, including the abandoning of the decades-long unification goal with Seoul, Pyongyang is quickly deepening its ties with Russia. The pace and the depth appear to have gained momentum since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 which led to a strain in most of Moscow's international ties. It gathered further fuel during the visit, in July 2023, of a delegation from Russia led by Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu to Pyongyang, which was followed soon after by North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's subsequent visit to Moscow in September 2023.

The Russian President, Vladimir Putin, is expected to visit Pyongyang once again in 2024, with both countries preparing for a summit between the two leaders where "very good" deals are expected to be signed. With 2023 having been a year in which bilateral ties were fast-tracked, Russia's Ambassador to North Korea, Alexander Matsegora, anticipates 2024 to be a breakthrough year for the two countries. Just last month, Mr. Putin gifted the North Korean leader a luxury Russian-made car, a type that is used by Mr. Putin himself.

Warming ties, greater collaboration

While historically, the two nations maintained diplomatic ties during the Cold War era, largely driven by shared ideological affinities as communist states, relations between Moscow and Pyongyang experienced fluctuations as the geopolitical landscape shifted. In recent years, there has been a noticeable warming of ties between Russia and North Korea, manifesting itself in diplomatic engagements and strategic collaborations, with Pyongyang emerging as a key arms, munitions, artillery shells and another conventional weaponry supplier to Moscow during the ongoing Ukraine crisis.

> This is a partnership that has been forged amid common challenges and shared strategic objectives

Reports also suggest that the two countries are discussing cooperation in sensitive areas that cannot be disclosed, with Mr. Putin also offering technical support for the development of spy satellites (a feat that North Korea has been aiming for some time now). There are also talks of trilateral naval exercises with Beijing although these are unconfirmed. In February 2024, Pyongyang also welcomed the first group of tourists from Russia since the COVID-19 pandemic.

For Russia, as a country that is an outcaste in world politics and yet a nuclear power, North Korea is a useful neighbour to cultivate. For North Korea, grappling with economic challenges and international sanctions, Russia has emerged as a potential saviour for development in sectors such as energy and transportation, and even in addressing Pyongyang's chronic food shortages. Earlier, infrastructure projects such as the Rajin-Khasan railway linking Russia to North Korea's Rajin port, underscored the tangible efforts to bolster economic cooperation.

The energy link

Energy collaboration has also formed another crucial aspect of the partnership. Russia has been a key supplier of fuel to North Korea, and discussions have been under way to explore further cooperation in the energy sector. The mainstay of bilateral cooperation is, however, a food-for-arms agreement, evidence of which surfaced during August 2023, although both countries have not confirmed the existence of such an agreement. The utility of a deal such as this is undeniable though, as Moscow needs arms to sustain its invasion of Ukraine while Pyongyang is in dire need of commodities and food. Satellite images in October 2023 tracked a significant increase in freight railcar traffic at the Tumangang rail facility located near the North Korea-Russia border, pointing to North Korea's transfers of ammunition to Russia.

The American factor

Among other factors contributing to this rapprochement is the shared challenge posed by the United States and its allies in the region. North Korea and Russia have faced varying degrees of strain in their relations with the West, prompting a pragmatic recalibration of their foreign policy priorities. Moscow perceives engagement with North Korea as a means to influence the broader security landscape in northeast Asia.

The diplomatic initiatives undertaken by Russia, often in collaboration with China, underscore a desire to shape regional security architecture independently of western influence. The North Korean Foreign Minister, Choe Son-hui, observed in October 2023 that powerful ties between Moscow and Pyongyang could potentially offset the U.S.-led efforts of a strong alliance between Washington, Tokyo and Seoul.

Developments in 2023, and indications thus far in 2024, point to the 'solidification' of bilateral ties between Russia and North Korea, with both countries having found instinctive collaborators in each other. This partnership, forged amid common challenges and shared strategic objectives, has far-reaching implications for regional stability and global geopolitics. As both nations deepen their engagement and cooperation across various sectors, their relationship is likely to exert a significant influence on the dynamics of the Korean Peninsula and the broader northeast Asian region. As such, Russia-North Korea ties represent a notable development in the geopolitical landscape, with ramifications that extend beyond the immediate bilateral relationship.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Campaign and conduct

The Election Commission of India (ECI) advisory to political parties, asking leaders not to reach out to voters on the basis of 'appealing to castes, raising communal passions and religious symbols, raking up personal issues, vilifying women and peddling half-truths' is a case of closing one's eyes to the true position. How caste, community and religion play out in all areas in public life, including politics, is well known. People want their representatives to be of good character and integrity, both in public and private. These can be ascertained only through more information on the candidates and their mode of activities being put out in the public domain.

The ECI's directives often appear to infringe on this absolutely personal right of voters to select a candidate on any count of her/his (voter's) choice.

P.R.V. Raja,
Pandalam, Kerala

The ECI appears to be losing its impartiality and freedom under the current administration. The recent surge in the 'integration of' religion into the political landscape, notably amplified by the inauguration of the Ram Temple, is a matter of great concern. The exponential increase in temple visits by certain leaders and the extensive coverage provided by electronic media in this regard only accentuate this issue.

The intertwining of religion with politics poses a potential threat to the fairness and the integrity of the Lok Sabha election.

As the custodian of electoral integrity, the ECI must enforce measures to maintain a level playing field for all political parties.

N. Nagarajan,
Secunderabad

Political long jump

It is the right of any political party or alliance to wish to return to power but the Bharatiya Janata Party has gone overboard by discussing 'a 100-day agenda for govt. after poll' (Page 1, March 4). It is amusing and ridiculous and it appears to be subjecting the Opposition INDIA bloc to some sort of psychological political pressure. On what basis is the BJP so confident? Is it going to adopt malpractices using EVMs or are we going to see Chandigarh mayoral election-like situations? The electorate will exercise its mind and choice at the polling booth. The party must wait.

A. Jainulabdeen,
Chennai

'India's parched IT capital'

Bengaluru, once labelled as a pensioner's paradise and known for its salubrious climate, is no longer so. The city receives rain that is in no way insignificant, and every drop needs to be conserved. Bengaluru is a classic example of how humans have extinguished access to a life-sustaining commodity. The government and the Army, with vast land holdings in and around the city, should adopt rainwater harvesting in a big way. Depending on the Cauvery alone is unlikely to meet the needs of an ever-burgeoning city ('Ground Zero' page, March 2).

H.N. Ramakrishna,
Bengaluru

Bengaluru is no longer a garden city. The metropolis is another instance of poor urbanisation — like Chennai — where water bodies have been lost.

V.M. Mahendran,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

A vaccine that prevents six cancers

Hrishikesh Pai
is President, FOGSI 2023

Upendra S. Kinjawadekar
is President, IAP 2023

January was observed as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. Additionally, every year, March 4 is observed as International HPV Awareness Day.

Protecting women's health includes protecting the cervix, the lower-most part of the uterus. With HPV vaccination, we can prevent cervical cancers that can seriously affect a woman's health. As the fourth most common cancer among women worldwide, cervical cancer claims the lives of more than 3,00,000 women every year, or one life every two minutes. Nine out of 10 women dying of cervical cancer live in lower- and middle-income countries. In India, cervical cancer is the second most common cancer after breast cancer. Given the country's population size, about 500 million women above the age of 15 are at risk of cervical cancer. If there is no action taken, the number of cases and deaths from cervical cancer are projected to rise significantly in the future. With the current population growth rate, the absolute number of new cases of cervical cancer for all ages in India in 2040 is estimated to be 1,91,347 – an increase of 54% over the number of new cases reported in 2020.

Strategies for prevention

It was in 1983 that German scientist Harald zur Hausen demonstrated that cervical cancer in humans is caused by certain types of papilloma viruses (wart viruses). Knowledge of HPV epidemiology and its role in causation of cancer has resulted in the development of two major strategies for prevention and early detection: HPV vaccination and screening for precancerous lesions. Although elimination of cervical cancer is a real possibility, the tragedy is that even today, many lower-resourced communities lack effective intervention programmes for elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem. The World Health Organization's strategy outlines a 90-70-90 triple pillar intervention to be implemented by 2030 with an additional focus on high-quality health care and equitable health care services. The intervention targets are: 90% of girls must be fully vaccinated with the HPV vaccine by the age of 15; 70% of women must be screened using a high-performance screening test by the age of 35 and again by 45; and 90% of women detected with cervical pre-cancer and cancer lesions must receive treatment and care.

A recent report titled 'Accelerating global health pathways: to health equity for the G20' highlighted the commitment of India's G20 presidency to promoting equitable access to vaccines, particularly for lower- and middle-income countries. The HPV vaccine was introduced in India in 2008. After sufficient country-level studies and successful State-level roll-outs, it was recommended for inclusion in the Universal Immunization Programme in 2023. An initial announcement was made in this regard by the Health Ministry in early 2023 and, recently, by the Finance Minister in her Interim Budget speech. The vaccine now awaits a national launch.

Research indicates that the HPV vaccine is not widely accessible to all girls across India. Currently, it is available in the private market at a significant out-of-pocket cost. Many physicians underestimate the incidence and risk of cervical cancer and the HPV infection. Physicians also underestimate the safety and effectiveness of HPV vaccines. The lack of trust in vaccine safety and effectiveness leads to hesitation in recommending the HPV vaccine to parents of age-eligible adolescents. Physicians may also hesitate to recommend this cancer prevention vaccination because HPV infections are primarily transmitted through intimate skin-to-skin contact. They may also feel it might be time-consuming to answer parents' questions regarding myths and misinformation about the HPV vaccine.

HPV vaccination and screening for precancerous lesions are two major strategies for prevention and early detection of cervical and other cancers

Facts and best practices

In support of the widely anticipated national roll-out of the HPV vaccine, the Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI) and the Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP), with a combined membership of over 80,000 physicians, have joined hands to remind member obstetricians-gynecologists and pediatricians about the facts of HPV vaccination and share best practices for effectively communicating with parents about this cancer-preventing vaccine. This safe and effective vaccine can help prevent six HPV cancers. Five of these occur in women: vulvar, anal, vaginal, throat, and cervical. Recommending the HPV vaccine to all adolescents starting at age 9 years is part of completing the IAP immunization schedule. Recently, the FOGSI Good Clinical Practice Recommendations, upon review of the body of evidence, reinforced its recommendation for HPV vaccination to the primary age group of 9-14 years as well as regular screening for every woman above the age of 30 years. As apex national medical societies with a track record of promoting health and well being of the population, the FOGSI and IAP seek to ensure that every girl grows up protected from cervical cancer through HPV vaccination and every woman is protected through regular cervical screening. In doing so, they are creating at least 20,000 HPV physician champions in their cadres by mid-2024. These member physicians will share the importance of HPV vaccination among their peers and and the community at large.

Physicians are the most respected leaders in society and the trusted source for health-related information. Their leadership is needed to eliminate cervical cancer in India.

In Karnataka, Congress on the defensive

But it hopes to shift focus to 'guarantee schemes' and the issue of devolution of funds

STATE OF PLAY

S. Bageshree

On the heels of the Budget session of the Karnataka Legislature ending on a raucous note, an IED blast at the Rameshwaram Cafe in Bengaluru's IT hub has set off a predictable narrative ahead of Lok Sabha elections.

During the Budget session, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) alleged that supporters of the Congress's Rajya Sabha winner Syed Naseer Hussain raised "Pakistan Zindabad" slogans in the corridors of the State Secretariat. On Monday three people were arrested in connection with the case. BJP State party president B.Y. Vijayendra described the blast in the cafe as an "extension" of the incident involving the alleged slogans and blamed the "my brother" policy of the Congress government for both. Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Union Minister and BJP contestant from Thiruvananthapuram, also said that both were a result of the "appeasement politics" of the Congress. Even as the investigating agencies are yet to make a significant breakthrough in either of the cases – with the forensic science laboratory report on the audio clip awaited in the first and no arrests made yet in the second – there has been political cacophony.

The Opposition has also been talking about the "failure" of the Congress government's guarantee schemes and mounting allegations of corruption. But the two recent episodes and the manner in which the BJP has seized these opportunities to target the ruling party is an indication of the tenor of its Lok Sabha campaign. Its leaders' statements are in the party's comfort zone of Hindutva politics, which is in tune with what is perceived to be the national mood after the inauguration of the Ram Mandir at Ayodhya. The two incidents have succeeded in putting the Congress on the defensive, yet again compelling it to bend backwards to "prove" that it is not "anti-Hindu." Effectively countering this narrative and bringing the discussion back to what it was hoping for in the run up to the elections is a challenge for the Congress.

Besides riding on the "success" of its five guarantee schemes, the party gave a fair indication of what it is keen to focus on during its campaign, during the Budget session. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah launched no-holds-barred attacks against the Centre over "stepmotherly treatment" in the devolution of taxes and drought relief. The Congress government went on to even pass a resolution in the Assembly against the Union government. This led to acerbic exchanges, dharnas, and walkouts in the Budget session. Mr. Siddaramaiah's Budget speech and his reply to the Budget discussion were replete with accusations against the BJP government at the Centre for decreasing the State's share of devolved taxes, and gradually decreasing the grant-in-aid allocation for centrally sponsored schemes and forcing the State to increase its share. Every time the Opposition brought up the question of drought or funding for works, the Chief Minister laid the blame squarely at the door of the Centre.

In early February, the State government's leadership, led by Mr. Siddaramaiah, staged a protest in New Delhi, calling it a "movement to protect the interests of Karnataka and Kannadigas" and against the "gross injustice" of the Centre. Mr. Siddaramaiah wrote a letter to all the MPs of the BJP and the Janata Dal (Secular), the BJP party's ally for the Lok Sabha polls, asking them to participate in this agitation "in the interest of Kannadigas."

Devolution of funds has remained a hot issue, with Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's brother and Lok Sabha member D.K. Suresh going as far as to argue that "South Indian States may be forced to demand a separate country if the Centre does not provide them with adequate funds." While this was dubbed "anti-national" by the BJP, the Congress government has continued to make overtures related to federalism and regional identity, also evident in the passage in the Budget session of the Kannada Language Comprehensive Development (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which mandates 60% of text on the name boards of all business and industrial establishments to be in Kannada in the top half. The Congress has made similar attempts in the past, including demanding that the Centre to grant official status to the 'Kannada flag'.

The Lok Sabha polls are going to be held in summer. Karnataka is reeling under a drinking water crisis and farmers have already lost a large part of their crops. What narrative will cut ice with the voters in a such a situation remains to be seen.

Over 1,000 Indians crossed into U.K. illegally in 2023

The number of Indians applying for asylum in the U.K. crossed the 5,000-mark for the first time in 2023

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan & Jasmin Nihalani

In 2023, more than 1,000 Indians risked their lives to reach the U.K. by crossing the English Channel from Europe in inflatable small boats, searching for jobs and seeking asylum. The number of Indians who took this dangerous journey has surged in recent years. In 2023, the number more than doubled from the previous year. The share of illegal migrants from India aged 18-29 has shot up in recent years; they formed close to 60% of the total number of illegal Indian migrants in 2023. In parallel, the number of Indians applying for asylum in the U.K. has also surged in recent years, crossing the 5,000-mark for the first time in 2023. Notably, the number of Indians crossing into the U.S. illegally has also surged recently, with close to 1 lakh people doing so in 2023.

The U.K. has been grappling with the problem of a sudden surge in the inflow of illegal migrants in recent years. There has been a notable rise in the number of asylum-seekers arriving in the U.K. by small boats from the European mainland. Through most of 2021 and 2022, daily crossings of the perilous English Channel by thousands of migrants were recorded. Although the number of these crossings decreased in 2023 compared with the previous two years, the incidence of such events remained substantially higher than what was observed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. This trend continues in 2024, with over 2,000 people crossing into the U.K. until February 27 this year.

Chart 1 shows the number of Indians who arrived in small boats between 2018 and 2023. In 2023, most of those who crossed into the U.K. were from Afghanistan (5,545 people), Iran (3,562), and Turkey (3,060). Indians featured ninth on the list with 1,192 crossings, similar to the number of people from Albania and Egypt. In 2022, Albania recorded 12,600 crossings, the highest that year, as its economy had turned anaemic, impacting jobs and wages.

Chart 2 shows the number of U.K. asylum applications raised by Indians over the years. The number skyrocketed post-pandemic, with 5,253 Indians applying for asylum in the U.K. in 2023. In total, close to 84,500 people from around the world applied for asylum last year. Close to 9,300 were from Afghanistan, the highest, followed by Iran (7,397), Pakistan (5,273), and India (5,253).

Chart 3 shows the age-wise share of Indian asylum applicants in the U.K. After the pandemic, the share of people aged 18-29 formed more than 50% in all the years. In 2023, 57% of the asylum-seekers were from this age group.

Chart 4 shows the number of asylum applications by Indians that were granted at the initial stage. In 2023, over 140 Indian asylum applicants were granted either protection or leave to remain (those who do not qualify for refugee status but are given permission to stay for various other reasons). It is important to note that most Indian asylum applications were rejected or the applicants themselves withdrew after some time.

This rising tide of asylum-seekers is now a political issue in the U.K. as the country may go to the polls later this year or in early January next year. The British Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, has long been pledging to "stop the boats" – a reference to the recent surge in illegal migrants crossing the English Channel. Given that the Conservative Party has been trailing the opposition Labour Party by a considerable margin in the opinion polls until now, Mr. Sunak has been pushing a Bill to send asylum-seekers in the U.K. to Rwanda, the outcome of which may have an impact on his and his party's success in the polls.

A dangerous journey far from home

The data for the charts were sourced from the U.K. Home Office's immigration system statistics and irregular migration statistics

Perilous path: Migrants on a beach near Calais, France, after a failed attempt to cross the Channel. REUTERS

Chart 1: The chart shows the number of Indians who arrived in small boats between 2018 and 2023

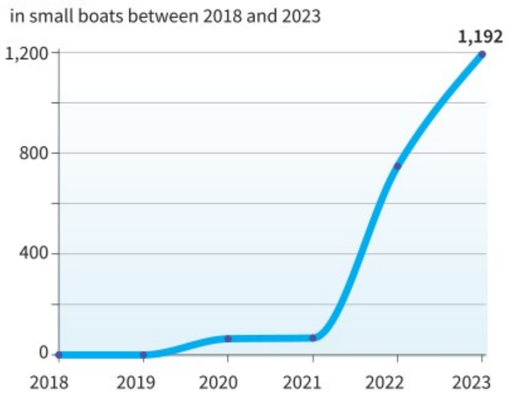


Chart 2: The chart shows the number of U.K. asylum applications raised by Indians over the years

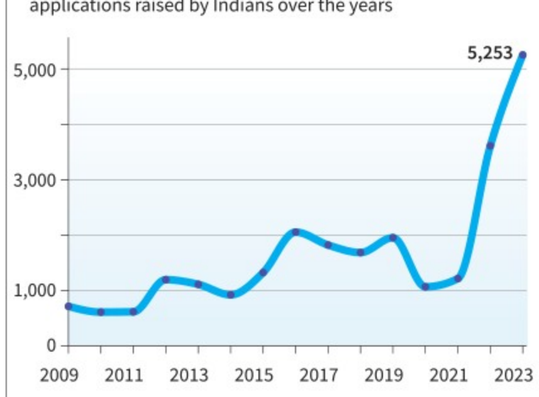


Chart 3: The chart shows the age-wise share of Indian asylum applicants in the U.K.

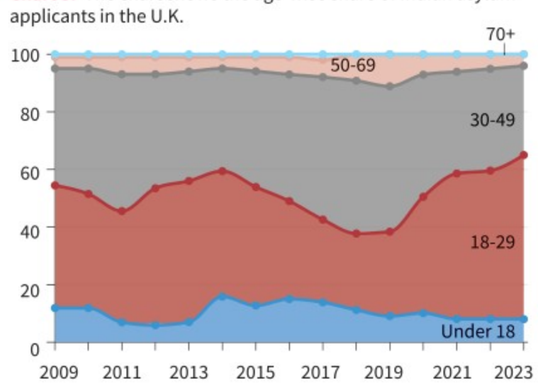
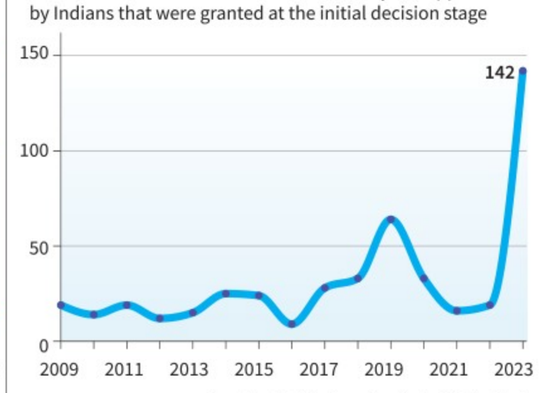


Chart 4: The chart shows the number of asylum applications by Indians that were granted at the initial decision stage



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FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 5, 1974

Speaker threatens to "walk out"

New Delhi, March 4: The Lok Sabha to-day witnessed an unusual protest. The Speaker, Mr. G.S. Dhillon, threatened to withdraw from the House, taking exception to the disrespectful remarks against the Chair made by a senior Opposition member, Mr. S.N. Mishra (Cong.-O).

It happened when the House was discussing the Government action in announcing outside the House the price hike of petrol, kerosene and other petroleum products, decided by the Cabinet last Friday. The Speaker, upholding the points raised by the Opposition, chastised the Government for not taking the House into confidence on the price rise as the House had been in session till 6 p.m. that day. Mr. Mishra was not present when the Speaker, replying to points raised by some Opposition members, observed that the Government action was "improper." A few Congress members joined the Opposition in cheering the Speaker's observations. As the discussion was on, Mr. Mishra entered the House. So also, a smiling senior Minister, Mr. D.K. Barooah, apparently unaware of the anger of the Opposition. Mr. Barooah, who was coming after answering similar protests in the Rajya Sabha, explained that the price hike was to compensate for the increased food prices. The Cabinet had taken the decision at 7 p.m. and it had to be announced before midnight for administrative reasons. Opposition members again rose up to protest and the Speaker tried to end the discussion by pointing out that under the rules they could not have an immediate discussion on the Minister's statement. An angry Mr. Mishra, who had asked to when the increase in price of crude was effected, insisted on getting a reply to his point. Mr. Mishra went on to charge the Speaker with trying to protect the Government.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 5, 1924

Davis tennis cup

Washington, March 3: The draw for the Davis cup will be held at the White House on March 17th. Mr. Coolidge will draw the first number. 15 nations besides the United States will participate. Ambassadors and Ministers will draw for their respective countries. Mr. Collidge will draw for the United States and the challenger round will be played in Philadelphia early in September.

From Page One

SC ends immunity for legislators taking bribes

Bribed lawmakers, the court said, were destructive to the "aspirational and deliberative ideals of the Constitution and create a polity which deprives citizens of a responsible, responsive and representative democracy".

Chief Justice Chandrachud reasoned that the freedom of speech and expression, which include voting in the House, and attendant immunities granted to legislators under Articles 105 and 194 did not extend to giving or taking bribes.

The judgment said parliamentary immunity would kick in only if a legislator acts in furtherance of "fertilising a deliberate, critical and responsive democracy".

Twofold test

The shield of immunity or parliamentary privilege could be claimed in two circumstances. One, if the actions of a legislator were meant to enhance the dignity and authority of the House and its members as a collective body and, secondly, if they were in the exercise of his rights to free speech, protest and freedom from arrest, among others. A claim for immunity would not survive if it failed this two-fold test, the court said.

"An interpretation which enables an MP to claim immunity from prosecution for an offence of bribery would place them above the law. This would be repugnant to the healthy functioning of parliamentary democracy and subversive of the rule of law," Chief Justice Chandrachud observed.

Criminal courts and Houses of the legislature have parallel jurisdiction over allegations of bribery. One cannot negate the jurisdiction of the other. "The jurisdiction exercised by a competent court to prosecute a criminal offence and the authority of the House to take action for a breach of discipline in relation to the acceptance of a bribe by a member of the legislature exist in distinct spheres," Chief Justice Chandrachud laid down.

The reference came in an appeal filed by JMM leader Sita Soren, who was accused of taking a bribe to vote for a particular candidate in the Rajya Sabha elections of 2012. Though she later denied culpability on the ground that she voted for the official nominee of her own party, the CBI had filed a chargesheet in the case. The Jharkhand High Court had refused to quash the chargesheet, following which she had moved the apex court.

Narendra Modi slams 'dynasts' in politics

"The farmers and the poor are my family. I have dedicated myself to empowering them," Mr. Modi emphasised, adding for those who did not have a family, he was their relative and vice versa. On his call, the party cadre chanted "*Naan Dhaan Modiyin Kudumbam*" (I am Modi's family). "But I keep saying 'Nation First'. Hence, the INDIA bloc has come up with a new formula to abuse me. They say Modi has no family. Do those who have a family get the licence for corruption?" he wondered.

Mr. Modi alleged that the Congress, its ally DMK, and the INDIA parties were "soaked in corruption and dynastic politics".

Referring to Monday's Supreme Court judgment holding there was no immunity from prosecution for lawmakers indulging in corruption, the Prime Minister said he welcomed it. According to him, this verdict has left the INDIA bloc and its leaders worried.

"Their tears are not drying up, they are afraid and trembling," he said.

"Those in the INDIA bloc have, for decades, been in the politics of loot. Because of them, the youth of the country are keeping away from politics," he charged and further contended that the apex court verdict would give a push for "*swachch rajneethi*" (clean politics).

SC to hear plea of T.N. Minister to club FIRs

Justice Khanna said Mr. Stalin could approach the High Courts in each of these States. The judge reasoned that it was not even certain at present whether chargesheets would even be filed in all these FIRs spread across Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Karnataka and Jammu and Kashmir for various offences, including promoting communal enmity and outraging religious feelings.

Mr. Singhvi said there were instances in the past when the top court had intervened and clubbed the FIRs in one place.

"I may lose or win the case on merits. But this is persecution, making me run around. The FIRs are based on the same statement," Mr. Singhvi submitted.

Justice Datta asked if the Minister expected a witness to come all the way from Jammu to Tamil Nadu to appear in the case.

The petition filed by Mr. Stalin said it was well-settled in criminal law that only the criminal courts within whose territorial jurisdiction the alleged offence took place would proceed with the case. Mr. Stalin made the speech at Kamarajar auditorium in Chennai. The jurisdiction would be vested in a court in Chennai.

Mr. Stalin voiced apprehension that enquiries in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra would "certainly have political overtones" and affect his right to a fair trial.

The court listed the case on March 15.

ADR says it will oppose SBI plea on poll bonds

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As the State Bank of India (SBI) moved the Supreme Court seeking time to comply with a direction to make public details of electoral bonds, the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), chief petitioner in the case, said it was considering all legal options, including opposing the SBI plea in court.

"... The data is obviously in digital format and collecting data from different States and locations and taking four months for that is impossible in this day and age," Jagdeep Chhokar, founder-member and trustee of the ADR, told *The Hindu*.

RTI activist Anjali Bhardwaj, who is a member of the board of Common Cause, which is one of the petitioners, said: "Donor names and redemption details of electoral bonds are both available in SBI's Mumbai Branch in sealed cover as per their affidavit. Why is SBI not disclosing these immediately?"

SBI seeks time till June 30 to disclose details of poll bonds

The SC had told the bank to furnish the information to the Election Commission by March 6; SBI said there were practical difficulties with the decoding exercise and the timeline fixed for it

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The extension of time sought by the SBI would ensure that the details are made public after the Lok Sabha election. REUTERS

The State Bank of India (SBI) on Monday moved the Supreme Court seeking time till June 30 to comply with a direction from the Supreme Court to make public details of electoral bonds purchased since April 2019, including the date of purchase, the name of the buyer, and the denomination of the bond.

A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, had struck down the electoral bonds scheme, which provided blanket anonymity for financial contributions to political parties, as "unconstitutional and manifestly arbitrary" on February 15.

Full disclosure

The bank was directed to make a full disclosure to the Election Commission (EC) of political parties which had received contributions and encashed the electoral bonds since April 12, 2019. The bank was ordered to furnish the information to the EC by March 6. The poll body, in turn, had to publish the entire information given by the SBI on its website by March 13.

The extension of time sought by the SBI would ensure that details are made public after the Lok Sabha election.

In its nine-page application, the bank said there were "certain practical difficulties with the decoding exercise and the timeline fixed for it".

"Due to the stringent measures undertaken to ensure that the identity of the donors was kept anonymous, decoding of the electoral bonds and the matching of the donor to the donations made would be a complex process," the SBI submitted.

The bank has laid down a detailed standard operating procedure (SoP) for 29 authorised branches across India and no central database was maintained. Donor details were kept in a sealed cover at the designated branches.

"In order to make available donor information, the date of issue of each bond will have to be checked and matched against the date of purchase by a particular donor. This exercise would only deal with the first silo of information. These bonds were redeemed by political parties in their designated bank accounts. Accordingly, this information would then have to be matched against the bond redemption information that makes up the second silo," the bank explained.

It said the details ordered by the court to be made public were stored separately.

"Some of the details such as number of bonds, etc. are stored digitally while the other set of details are stored physically. The purpose of not storing all details digitally was to ensure that it cannot be gathered easily," the application said.

'Travesty of justice', say Opposition on SBI demand

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition parties on Monday questioned the SBI's plea for extending the date for submitting details of electoral bonds and called it a "travesty of justice". They said every effort was being made to ensure that the data were not released in time for the elections to shield the "corrupt practices" of the Modi government.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in a post on X asked, "When the Supreme Court has said that it is the right of the countrymen to know the truth about electoral bonds, then why does SBI want this information not to be made public before the elections?".

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury asked whether the SBI's extension was only to shield the government. Trinamool Congress leader Saket Gokhale said, "This is 'Modi *Ka Parivaar*' working overtime to hide the large-scale corruption done by him and BJP."

Bribery involving legislators: PM, Congress hail SC ruling

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Congress, and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) on Monday welcomed the Supreme Court's judgment that members of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies do not enjoy immunity from prosecution for taking bribes to make speeches or to cast votes in the legislature.

A seven-judge Constitution Bench, headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, unanimously overruled the 1998 verdict delivered by a five-judge Bench in the *Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) bribery* case by which MPs and MLAs were granted immunity from prosecution for taking bribe to make a speech or vote in the legislature.

Minutes after the judgment was delivered, Mr. Modi posted on X (formerly Twitter): "SWAGATAM! [welcome] A great judgment by the Hon'ble Supreme Court which will ensure clean politics and deepen people's faith in the system."

'Historic decision'

Congress spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi also welcomed the judgment, stating that this had been "a long-pending issue for many years to correct a purely legal issue", which cannot be the law on the text of the Constitution.

"It is a salutary, desirable, welcome judgement. It is something which sets right the law and it should have been done earlier. It is a legal issue decided on the assumption that some people did not so vote and some people did vote on the allegation of bribery and whether they can at all be prosecuted, not whether they are convictable or not, on the merits," said Mr. Singhvi.

"These provisions of protection to Members of Parliament or an MLA are made for the discharge of their duties and only for those things without which they cannot discharge their duties, and not to give them additional benefits like, for example, receiving bribe," he added in a video message.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury termed the judgment "historic" and also connected it to horse trading and toppling of governments through pecuniary appeals to legislators.

He posted on X: "A historic 7 Judge Constitution bench judgement. Mega horse trading allegedly through bribery indulged by the BJP has toppled many democratically elected governments replaced by BJP govts! Likewise, some BJP RS (Rajya Sabha) MPs have been elected in this manner."

No positive result from talks with Shah: Ladakh leaders

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Unresolved talks: The sub-committee members had a meeting with Amit Shah at his residence on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Civil society leaders in Ladakh, who are protesting to demand Constitutional safeguards for the region, met Union Home Minister Amit Shah, on Monday, but the "meeting did not result in any positive outcome".

This is the first meeting of the Ladakh groups with Mr. Shah since 2020.

The members of the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) said they had two rounds of meetings with officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Monday.

"Today the sub-committee of LAB and KDA held a meeting with the officials of MHA and adviser Union Territory, Ladakh. The meeting ended without any concrete outcome. Subsequently, the sub-committee members had a meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah at his residence. This meeting too didn't result in any positive outcome. Both the bodies will devise future course of action after consultation with the people of the two districts," a statement issued by the leaders said.

The MHA and the civil society groups have had three rounds of talks so far.

The Union Territory, with a population of 2.74 lakh (2011 Census) has erupted in protests several times in the past four years amid concerns over protection of land, resources, and employment for the locals, and bureaucratic overreach. Earlier, MHA officials had agreed to examine how the provisions of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution could be implemented in Ladakh's context.

The LAB and KDA are jointly protesting for Statehood and inclusion of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, thus giving it a tribal status; job reservation for locals; and a parliamentary seat each for Leh and Kargil.

Former Member of Parliament Thupstan Chhewang, who is also the chief of the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA), has been leading the talks.

After the special status of J&K under Article 370 of the Constitution was abrogated by the Parliament on August 5, 2019, Ladakh was turned into a Union Territory without any Legislative Assembly.

Allow MPs, MLAs to speak without fear of harassment in House, says SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Fearless debates: The top court said freedom of speech was a 'necessary privilege' essential to the functioning of the House.

A Constitution Bench on Monday said the Parliament and State legislatures would lose their representative character in a democratic polity if MPs and MLAs are not able to attend the House and speak their minds in the exercise of their duties as members without fear of being harassed by the executive or any agencies.

"The freedom of elected legislators to discuss and debate matters of the moment on the floor of the House is a key component of a deliberative democracy in a parliamentary form of government. The ability of legislators to conduct their functions in an environment which protects their freedom to do so without being overawed by coercion or fear is constitutionally secured. As citizens, legislators have a fundamental right to the freedom of speech and expression," Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud observed.

The judgment overruled a majority judgment of 1998 in the *JMM bribery* case.

"... Even in the face of colonial reluctance, the demand for parliamentary privileges in India was always tied to the relationship which it bore to the functions which the Indian legislators sought to discharge," the judgment said.

However, the Bench said the parliamentary privilege and immunity would swing into action if legislators were threatened with prosecution for their official actions or speeches given in the House to enhance the dignity and authority of the legislature.

The Chief Justice said freedom of speech in the Houses of Parliament and their committees was one such "necessary privilege" essential to the functioning of the House.

"This privilege is not only essential to the ability of Parliament and its members to carry out their duties, but it is also at the core of the function of a democratic legislative institution," the judgment noted.

Similarly, the vote given by an MP was an extension of speech. "Therefore, the freedom of a Member of Parliament to cast a vote is also protected by the freedom of speech in Parliament," the court set down.

Rajya Sabha elections must be given utmost protection, says court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said the elections to the Rajya Sabha and Council of States required "utmost protection" and the right to vote should be carried out freely without fear or persecution.

"The Rajya Sabha or the Council of States performs an integral function in the working of our democracy and the role played by the Rajya Sabha constitutes a part of the basic structure of the Constitution. Therefore, the role played by elected members of the State Legislative Assemblies in electing members of the Rajya Sabha under Article 80 is significant and requires utmost protection to ensure that the vote is exercised freely and without fear of legal persecution," a Constitution Bench of seven judges, headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, said.

He also said the free and fearless exercise of franchise by elected members of the Legislative Assembly while electing members of the Rajya Sabha was undoubtedly necessary for the dignity and efficient functioning of the State Legislative Assembly.

The court said parliamentary privilege was not to be restricted to only law-making on the floor of the House but extended to other powers and responsibilities of elected members, which took place in the Legislature or Parliament even when the House was not sitting.

Congress manifesto, screening committees hold crucial meetings

Party's election panel to meet on Thursday to finalise names for first list; manifesto for LS polls to focus on MSP legal guarantee, caste census

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leaders Supriya Shrinate, P. Chidambaram, and T.S. Singh Deo during the website launch for the manifesto. FILE PHOTO

The Congress held a series of important meetings on Monday as the party geared up for the Lok Sabha elections.

The manifesto committee, headed by former Finance Minister and senior party leader P. Chidambaram, discussed the draft manifesto. Meetings of screening committees were also held to shortlist candidates for the elections.

The party's Central Election Committee (CEC) will meet on Thursday to finalise the names for the first list of Lok Sabha candidates, said sources.

The manifesto committee will also be meeting on Tuesday for further discussions. Sources said the panel cleared about 10 pages of the 50-page document on Monday.

Once the document is finalised, it will be sent to the Congress Working Committee for the final stamp of approval. On Saturday, *The Hindu* had reported that giving legal guarantee to minimum support price, conducting a caste-based census, and filling up existing government vacancies as a priority would prominently figure in the party's manifesto for the elections.

A source told *The Hindu* that apart from caste census, the party would focus on better access to education for marginalised sections, higher scholarships, economic packages for different target groups like women, youth, backward classes, micro and small entrepreneurs, gig workers, and so on.

Thematically, the document would focus on *paanch nyay,* or five pillars of justice, that the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra has been highlighting for the past two months.

In a post on X on Monday, Mr. Gandhi said the data presented by the Centre in Parliament showed that 9.64 lakh posts were vacant across 78 departments. "If we look at important departments only, 2.93 lakh posts are vacant in the Railways, 1.43 lakh in the Home Ministry and 2.64 lakh in the Defence Ministry," he said.

"The INDIA bloc's resolve is that we will open closed doors of jobs for the youth," he asserted.

After Lalu's jibe, BJP launches 'Modi Ka Parivar' campaign

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

BJP MP said the Opposition had been launching personal attacks against Modi for past 17 years

Reacting to Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad's jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for having "no family", BJP leaders on Monday added "Modi *Ka Parivar*" (Modi's family) to their social media profiles.

Mr. Prasad had made the remarks at a rally in Patna on Sunday while referring to Mr. Modi's attacks on dynastic politics, asking why the Prime Minister did not have a family.

Union Ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, and Nirmala Sitharaman, and BJP chief J.P. Nadda were joined by party members from across the country in declaring themselves as "Modi *Ka Parivar*" on their social media accounts, as the ruling party launched a counter-attack.

Many supporters of Mr. Modi also made the change on their pages.

BJP MP and spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said this was in response to the Opposition parties which "have been launching personal attacks against Modi by making such 'petty' remarks against him for the past 16-17 years".

"In that series, yesterday [Sunday], at a rally in Patna, once again such petty remarks were made against Prime Minister Modi by Mr. Prasad in the presence of INDIA alliance leaders. This is sad and painful," Mr. Trivedi said at a press conference at the BJP headquarters here.

"He [Prasad] has talked about Modi's family. I want to remind [him] that for Prime Minister Modi, the entire country is his family," he added.

The BJP's move in support of Mr. Modi in the run-up to the Lok Sabha election is reminiscent of a similar campaign the party had mounted prior to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. It then had launched the "*Main bhi chowkidar*" campaign to take on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's "*chowkidar chor hai*" dig at Mr. Modi.

Responding to the remark, Mr. Modi at a rally in Telangana said that "140 crore people of India are my family". He also kept up his attack on "dynastic parties" in the country, saying that they may have different faces, but "*jhoot aur loot*" (lies and loot) was their "common character".

Modi's 'real family' loots country, says Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Taking a dig at the 'Modi *Ka Parivar*' (Modi's family) campaign launched by the BJP on social media, the Congress on Monday said it was an attempt at "misleading" people from real issues.

"Farmers are in debt, youth are unemployed, labourers are helpless, and the country is being looted by Modi's 'real family'," Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said in a post on X.

Mr. Gandhi also shared his earlier photo from the Lok Sabha, in which he had held a poster-size photograph of Mr. Modi in a private jet with business tycoon Gautam Adani.

The Congress's social media handles ran a hashtag 'Modi *Ka Asli Parivar*' (Modi's real family) and pointed to his ties with Mr. Adani. "Do women of Manipur find a place in Modi *ka parivar*? Will the PM call the farmers protesting on the borders of Delhi his *parivar*? What about the unemployed youth?" Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal asked on X.

The party also targeted the Prime Minister over Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra Teni, whose son allegedly mowed down a group of protesting farmers with his SUV.

INBRIEF

Delhi HC dismisses Mahua's plea in cash for query case

The Delhi High Court on Monday dismissed a plea filed by Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra that requested the court to restrain BJP MP Nishikant Dubey and advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai from making bribery allegations against her for asking questions in Parliament. Justice Sachin Datta, who had reserved the verdict on the application for the interim relief by Ms. Moitra on December 20, rejected it on Monday. She was expelled from the Lok Sabha in December after Mr. Dubey and Mr. Dehadrai alleged that she has taken bribe from businessman Darshan Hiranandani to ask questions in Parliament. Ms. Moitra has refuted the allegations against her as "political vendetta".

BJP's Barabanki MP opts out of LS race after viral video

BJP Lok Sabha MP from Barabanki, Upendra Singh Rawat, whose alleged obscene video went viral on Monday, declared that he would not contest any election until proven innocent, and urged party president J.P. Nadda to probe the video. Mr. Rawat, whose name was declared in the first list of Lok Sabha candidates, alleged that the video had been generated by deep fake artificial intelligence technology for which he has lodged an FIR. The Barabanki MP alleged that the video had been made public after he had been renominated in an attempt to tarnish his image. Mr. Rawat won the Barabanki seat in the 2019 Lok Sabha election defeating the Samajwadi Party candidate Ram Sagar Rawat.

Media ignoring joblessness, farmers' protest, says Rahul in Madhya Pradesh

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Hitting out: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi greeting the crowd at the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Madhya Pradesh's Binaganj on Monday. ANI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday hit out at the mainstream media for telecasting billionaire Mukesh Ambani's son Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's pre-wedding festivities, and accused it of not highlighting issues like farmers' protest, unemployment, and inflation.

The remarks came on the third day of his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Madhya Pradesh.

He said the biggest issues in the country were unemployment, inflation, and corruption. "Why is Ambani *ji*'s wedding being discussed in the media all day long? Someone explain this to me," he asked. "When you watch the TV [news] you will see Bollywood stars, they will talk about cricket sometimes. But they will not talk about your issues because you have no control over the media," he said. He reiterated his stance that OBCs, Dalits, and tribal people do not have proper representation across sectors.

Mr. Gandhi resumed his march from Shivpuri on Monday. From Shivpuri, the yatra travelled through Guna, the bastion of Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, who was announced as the BJP's candidate for the Lok Sabha elections. He had unsuccessfully contested from the seat on Congress ticket in 2019, before switching to the BJP.

With the election around the corner, the Congress has been working to negate the Scindia-factor in the region and make a comeback. The party currently does not hold any of the four Lok Sabha seats – Morena, Bhind, Gwalior, and Guna – in the belt.

A decade of degradation for Railways, says Cong., cites price hike, poor safety

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Criticising the Union government over the issues of rising ticket prices, reduction in number of non-AC coaches, falling train speeds, rail safety, and deteriorating finances, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said that it had been a "decade of degradation" for the Railways.

Mr. Ramesh in a post on X on Sunday said the average price per passenger per kilometre had registered a 107% increase "from 0.32/passenger-km in 2013-14 to 0.66/passenger-km". For the United Progressive Alliance decade, he said the increase was only 33%. "We must credit the Modi government for coming up with so many different ways to extort people," he said.

He listed out "fake superfast surcharges", "senior citizen concessions withdrawal", "dynamic pricing fraud" and "long extensions of so-called 'special' trains" as factors contributing to this hike.

Mr. Ramesh said, "In a move that requires a special kind of cruelty, the Modi government withdrew rail ticket concessions for senior citizens during the pandemic. In the three years since this policy, over ₹3,700 crore has been looted from senior citizens!"

The dynamic pricing, he said, was exclusionary and shunted out migrant workers who want to visit their families for Chhath Puja or a student wishing to see her family for the holidays.

He criticised the Centre's lackadaisical attitude towards safety. "The CAG has flagged a huge backlog in renewal and replacement of 'over aged assets' critical for safe running of trains. It found that the decline in fund availability and non-utilisation of available funds for track renewals was causing derailments," he said.

Trinamool leader Tapas Roy quits party

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, senior Trinamool Congress MLA Tapas Roy on Monday resigned from all posts in the Trinamool Congress and as a member of West Bengal Legislative Assembly.

He had been voicing his discontent in the media over the past few days. Mr. Roy was also vocal against veteran Trinamool leader Sudip Banerjee. Speculation is rife that Mr. Roy may join the BJP and contest against Mr. Sudip from Kolkata Uttar Lok Sabha seat.

Mr. Roy said that Trinamool chief Mamata Banerjee did not stand by him when his house was raided by the Enforcement Directorate about 50 days ago.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
SAMAGRA SHIKSHA

Request for proposals are invited through e-procurement platform for Selection of Service Provider to provide Training Facilities, Residential Facilities and Support Services for implementing Capacity Building Program for School Teachers of Government of Andhra Pradesh.

RFP downloading starts from : **05-03-2024 @ 03.00 PM**
Last date for RFP : **19-03-2024 @ 03.00 PM**

Note: Further details can be viewed at **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** or contact: **80741 75258, 95155 81396.**

DIPR 2752PP/CL, Dt.04-03-2024 **Sd/- for State Project Director**

Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd.
milma
Milma Bhavan, Pattom P.O, Trivandrum - 695004
Ph: 0471 2786436 to 424, E-mail: marketing@milma.com

TENDER FOR CUSTOM PACKING OF MANGO JUICE

Bid Reference : **KCMMF/MKTG/68/2024 (Tender ID - 2024_KCMMF_666575_1)**
Name of Work : **E - tender for Custom Packing of Mango Juice in Tetra pack and pet bottles.**
Detailed tender notice available in our website **www.milma.com** / Contact - **9847261722**
04.03.2024 Sd/- **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATIVE CORPORATION OF ODISHA LTD
Rupali Square, Bhoi Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751022, Odisha
Tel No.2542475, 2542617, FAX-2544828, Email : admin@tdccodisha.org

E-Auction Notification No. 527 Date: 02.03.2024

E-Auction for Advance Sale of Seeded Tamarind 2024 Crop procured under LABHA Scheme

Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation of Odisha Limited (TDCCOL), Bhubaneswar commencing e-tender for advance sale of **Seeded Tamarind 2024 Crop will be procured under "LABHA" Scheme in the State**. Last date of submission of price through e-Tender is on **11.03.2024 at 12.00 PM** through service providers i.e. MSTC Ltd (E-RaKAM)- **www.mstcecommerce.com**, eNivida portal - **www.enivida.odisha.gov.in**, BSE- e-Agriculture Markets (BEaM)- **www.bsebeam.com**, & C1 India - **www.mfp.c1autions.com**. The detail tender call notice can be downloaded from the above websites and also from the site of TDCCOL i.e. **www.tdccorissa.org**. Any changes/modification in the e-Auction documents will be posted in above websites.

CAD-4474 Sd/- **Managing Director**
OIPR - 26005/11/0017/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, SOUTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
Phone: 0680-2281582, e-mail: ccescbam@gmail.com
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement]
Short Tender Call Notice

Bid Identification No. CCE, S.C (R&B)-BAM-31/2023-24 No.803//Dated:29.02.2024

1. The **Chief Construction Engineer, Southern (R&B) Circle, Berhampur** on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites **percentage rate bid** in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** from eligible contractors for construction of **Bridge Works** as detailed in the table below.
2. Nature of work : **Bridge Works**
3. No. of work : **2 Nos.**
4. Tender Cost : **Rs.10,000/- (online)**
5. Class of Contractor : **"A" Class**
6. Availability of Bid document in the website. : From **06.03.2024 10.00 AM to 12.03.2024 5.30 PM**
7. Date of Opening of Bid : **13.03.2024 at 11.30 A.M.**
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website **https://tendersodisha.gov.in.**
9. Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

B-1880 : Sd/- **Chief Engineer, Southern (R&B) Circle, Berhampur.**
OIPR-34103/11/0035/2324

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD
Regd. Office: PSEB H.O. Building, The Mall, Patiala
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) U40109PB2010SGC033813
Contact NO. 96461-18773

Tender Enquiry No. QQ-2349/PO-P

Chief Purchase Officer/ MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd floor, Multistory Building, The Mall, Patiala, invites E-Tender for Procurement of 1584 MT (Metric Ton) of 4mm Dia Indented HT Steel Wire with ISI/PQM marked conforming to IS:6003-1983, (Reaffirmed 2010) (with latest amendments, if any) and PSPCL Specification no. QQ-2349/PO-P. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 04.03.2024 onwards.

NOTE: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

C-194/24 76155/12/2791/2023/33198

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : SUNDARGARH
AT/PO-SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020, E-mail address-serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com

No.Tender Online – RWCCESNG-56 of 2023-24, Letter No.783 /Dtd.02.03.2024

e-Procurement NOTICE

1. Type of the Work : **Roads (MMSY and DMF)**
2. Class of Contractor : As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
3. Time of Completion : As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Estimated Cost : As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCESNG-56 of 2023-24	07.03.2024 11:00 AM	27.03.2024 5:00 PM	22.03.2024 5:00 PM	28.03.2024 11:00 AM	Will be intimated separately

● Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

Chief Engineer (Design & Quality Control)
Chief Construction Engineer (I/C), Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh.
O-2736 : OIPR-25133/11/0081/2324

E-Mail : sencrwangul@yahoo.co.in; Ph. No.06764-236404
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, ANGUL
No. 619 // Dt. 21.02.2024 //

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR ROAD WORK IN ODISHA
Bid Identification No. Road Online AGL-50/2023-24

1. Name of the Work : **Road Works**
2. Total No. of Work : **1 No.**
3. Estimated Cost : **Rs.1282.02 Lakhs**
4. Class of Contractor : **As per Annexure**
5. Period of Completion : **As per Annexure**
6. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul	Road Online -AGL-50/2023-24	26.02.2024 at 10.00 A.M.	11.03.2024 up to 4.30 P.M.	07.03.2024 up to 1.00 P.M.	11.03.2024 at 5.00 P.M.	Will be intimated separately

For detailed Notice Inviting Tenders, Please visit to the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in
O-2735: Sd/- B.N.Sarangi, Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul.
OIPR-25180/11/0082/2324

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement)

BESCOM invites tender vide Enquiry No.: BESCOM/2023-24/SE0121 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal platform from eligible Bidders for **"Appointment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Service Provider for Smart Metering Solution in BESCOM on DBFOOT basis".**

Bid Documents available: From 11.03.2024, 4:00 P.M. Bid documents can be downloaded through the Karnataka public procurement portal from the web site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Aspiring Bidders need to register in the e-procurement portal. Further bidders can take the assistance of the e-procurement help desk at **+91-8046010000 +91-8022631200.**

Sd/-
The General Manager (ICT&MIS), BESCOM

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
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INBRIEF

Swedish defence major SAAB begins work on unit in India

Swedish defence major Saab on Monday started construction of its new manufacturing facility in India for its iconic Carl-Gustaf M4 weapons with a formal ground-breaking ceremony. The facility is being built at MET City in Haryana. The State has a strong industrial base of good potential partners and skilled employees, the company said. "Today is an important milestone for Sweden and India. Saab's factory will be the first foreign fully-owned defence production facility in India. It is a testament to the strong bilateral relationship between our countries," says Håkan Jevrell, State Secretary for Foreign Trade, Sweden.

Court seeks response from WFI, govt. on wrestlers' plea

The Delhi High Court on Monday sought response from the Union government and the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) on a plea filed by wrestlers Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik, and Satyawart Kadian challenging a WFI circular for conducting the selection trials for the Asian Olympic Qualifiers and the World Olympic Qualifiers, 2024. The petitioners were at the forefront of the protest against former WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh for allegedly molesting women grapplers. Justice Sachin Datta has put the matter for hearing on March 7 before which the ad-hoc committee has to reply to the plea.

Vacate party offices at Rouse Avenue by June 15: SC to AAP

The Supreme Court on Monday allowed the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) time till June 15 to vacate its offices from a property at Rouse Avenue allotted to the Delhi High Court for expanding judicial infrastructure. "In view of the impending general elections, we grant time till June 15, 2024 to vacate the premises so that land allotted to expand the district judiciary's footprint can be utilised on an expeditious basis," a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud observed. The court asked the AAP to approach the Land and Development Office for allotment of land for its offices.

Arvind Kejriwal skips eighth summons by ED in excise case

Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo Arvind Kejriwal on Monday skipped the eighth summons by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to appear before the agency. Mr. Kejriwal, however, agreed to appear before the agency virtually on any date after March 12. The ED had summoned Mr. Kejriwal on Monday in relation to a money laundering probe in the Delhi excise policy case. ED sources, however, said they had no provisions for doing a virtual hearing. Mr. Kejriwal has repeatedly skipped the summons by the agency stating that they were illegal, unfair, and politically motivated. AAP leaders have alleged that the Centre was using the ED as a politcal tool to intimidate the Opposition.

Govt. employees protest against promotion delay

They threaten to stage a 'non-cooperation movement' if an expedited decision is not taken regarding their promotions and the Union government does not 'wake up from its deep slumber'

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Employees of the Union government have threatened a "non-cooperation movement" if an expedited decision is not taken regarding their promotions and the "government does not wake up from its deep slumber".

The officials said that many employees suffer stagnation in their careers and financial losses in pension as they retire without getting promoted.

Over 100 Central Secretariat Service (CSS) officials on Monday took out a peace march at Raisina Hill, where the Prime Minister's Office and several Ministries such as Home and Defence are located, to mark their protest.

A cadre review committee (CRC) constituted in 2022 is yet to submit its findings. The committee is headed by officials of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).

Mass protest: There is a stagnation in almost each grade of CSS due to which officers are distressed and dismayed. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The CSS forum has pursued the matter at every level, however, we are yet to receive any positive outcome from the government. Such kind of treatment with CSS officers who are considered as backbone of Central government is very disappointing and frustrating," the forum said in a letter sent to the Secretary, DoPT.

It said the government had constituted a cadre review committee on October 27, 2022 to assess the rising demand for manpower across various Ministries and departments in view of a growing number of schemes and projects of the Government of India and to suggest the steps for better cadre management and smooth career progression of CSS officials.

"As per information available with us, the deliberations of the committee have been completed long ago. However, the matter is still pending with the government. As per information available with us, at least 20 government departments have sent requisitions for more than 2,500 additional posts. The number will be huge if the data of all the departments are to be considered. Due to the delay in the submission of the report of CRC, these departments are crippled due to shortage of manpower, which is also hampering official work. There is also stagnation in almost each grade of CSS due to which officers are distressed and dismayed," the forum said.

The forum has decided to take out a series of protest marches in the next few days.

"We will start a non-cooperation movement if the government does not act. We will only work during the official hours, 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., and will not put in any extra hours as we do on a usual basis," one of the members of the forum said.

Tired of spam or fraud calls? File a plaint on *Chakshu*

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ashwini Vaishnaw

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on Monday launched *Chakshu*, a platform for telecom users to report fraud or spam callers. The facility, available at *sancharsaathi.gov.in/sfc*, will allow citizens to "proactively report suspected fraud communication", the DoT said in its announcement.

The platform will allow users to report frauds related to bank account, payment wallet, SIM, gas connection, electricity connection, KYC update, expiry, deactivation, impersonation as government official or relative, and sextortion.

The Digital Intelligence Platform was also launched, which would be a non-public data-sharing resource for "Telecom Service Providers, law enforcement agencies, banks and financial institutions, social media platforms, identity document issuing authorities, and so on", the DoT said.

Minister for Communications and Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw also supported Caller Name Presentation (CNAP), a feature that would allow telecom users who opt for the service to view the registered name of everyone calling them. Telecom firms and some civil society groups had warned that it would adversely impact people's privacy rights.

Mr. Vaishnaw likened the feature to the right to know who was knocking at the door but added that recommendations favouring CNAP's introduction by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India would be reviewed in detail before further steps are taken.

Uttarakhand Cabinet nod for Ordinance to recover damage cost

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Those found guilty will also have to pay a fine of up to ₹8 lakh apart from the recovery amount

The Uttarakhand Cabinet on Monday approved an Ordinance for the recovery of the cost of damage to public property during riots and protests from those involved.

The government has also formed a tribunal which will assess the cost of the damage.

Those found guilty will also have to pay a fine of up to ₹8 lakh apart from the recovery amount. It will be used to pay for the expenses incurred on riot control.

Heavy price

The Cabinet nod to the Uttarakhand Public (Government) and Recovery of Damage to Private Property (Ordinance) Act 2024, comes less than a month after violence broke out in Haldwani's Banbhoolpura after the civic body demolished an illegal madrasa and mazar built on *Nazool* (owned by government) land. Five people were killed and 100 injured in the violence. "With the aim of strictly curbing the cases of riots and unrest, the Cabinet has approved the constitution of a Special Tribunal. The damage caused to public property during the riots will be compensated by the rioters themselves. Those who disturb the peace of the State will have to pay a heavy price," Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami wrote on X.

A government communique said that in addition to the compensation, the rioters will also have to pay for the treatment of those injured in the violence.

Apart from this, the entire expense incurred during the riots on the police, administration or other agencies for riot control will also be recovered from the people involved.

Hundreds of govt. officials to be mobilised for Modi's rally

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

On alert: Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) personnel monitoring vehicle movement in Srinagar on Monday. ANI

The J&K Lieutenant-Governor's administration has made elaborate arrangements to mobilise hundreds of government employees to attend the public rally of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Srinagar's Bakshi Stadium on March 7.

Top official sources said 13 departments have been directed to send their employees to the venue.

These departments are Education, National Rural Livelihood Mission, Agriculture, Rural Development Department, Handicrafts, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Integrated Child Development Services, Directorate of Youth Services & Sports, Nehru Yuva Kendra, J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board, Social Welfare, and Jal Shakti.

The Food Safety Department has been directed to ensure the presence of representatives from 62 bakery shops across the city.

"All Departmental/Sectoral Nodal Officers shall strictly ensure that vehicles allotted to their respective sectors shall only be utilised at respective identified pickup locations, keeping in view of the security measures. No alteration shall be entertained in the list of participants, Vehicle Nodal Persons, allotted vehicles," an official circular read.

One list, accessed by *The Hindu*, suggested that around 7,000 employees from 13 departments will attend the Prime Minister's rally.

A massive security clearance initiative has been launched to carry out a background check of these government employees attending the rally.

"Security agencies even sought details of spouses and family members and asked if they had any links with militants," one employee said on the condition of anonymity.

A teacher from the Education Department in Srinagar expressed ignorance about their requirement at the venue. Official sources said they will be picked up before the sunrise for the venue.

"We have been asked to arrive at school premises around 4 a.m. Except phones, no bags will be allowed. There is no further direction to us," another teacher said.

Submit report on gang rape of Spanish woman: HC

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

The Jharkhand High Court on Monday took *suo motu* cognisance of the gang rape of a Spanish woman in the State on Friday night. A Division Bench led by Acting Chief Justice S. Chandrashekhar sought a report from Jharkhand's Chief Secretary and Director-General of Police (DGP), as well as the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Dumka district, where the incident took place.

The next hearing is scheduled on Thursday.

The court said, "The incident of crime of any kind against a foreign national may have serious national and international repercussions including impacting the tourism economy of the country. A sex-related crime against a foreign woman is likely to bring adverse publicity against the country and thereby tarnishing the image of India across the globe."

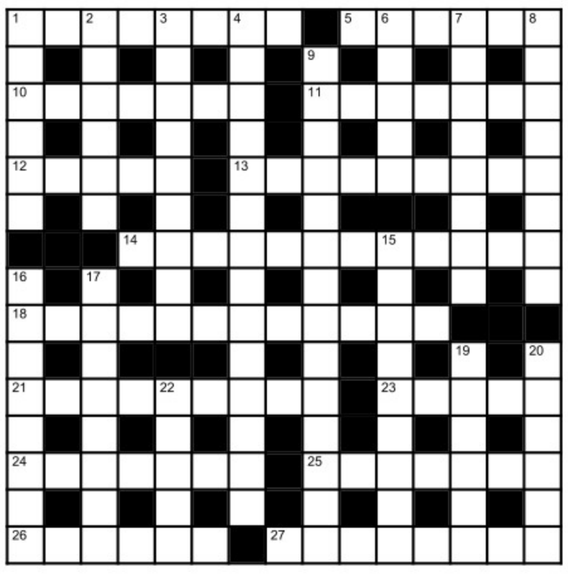
The police said three people had been arrested.

TH CROSSWORD + 14114

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Live coverage of break during IPL, is it New York? (3,5)
5 American central bank admitted the statute is defective (6)
10 Jesus! I enjoy being outside (7)
11 Time consuming, it's about a country in Africa (7)
12 Kannada or Tamil, some of it comes straight from the heart (5)
13 Gather under cover, one goes for duck (9)
14 Go on line by coincidence (12)
18 Served rivals who became tyrants (5,7)
21 Reform over masters' admission in old college (4,5)
23 Fight to catch river fish (5)
24 Miss Turner fills up gas and gets something to eat (7)
25 Beer bottles - dispatch a messenger (7)
26 Secure around a governor (6)
27 She goes into a depression, he follows (8)

Down

1 Stop supporting bus conductor (6)
2 26 no alternative to rule (6)
3 Increase pressure and work on stone (9)
4 Testing ground for holy bishops (5,9)
6 Placed right inside for a land owner (5)
7 Defect is not with the make up (3,5)
8 Departs, having taken a chance with disease (8)
9 Repeated refusal to come down from paradise (14)
15 Bird modulates voice (9)
16 Countrymen face terrorists hiding real bomb (8)
17 Cat creates some problem in the shop (8)
19 Man follows law, I suffer pain (6)
20 Select range, erect on all sides of the road (6)
22 Hot stuff comes up during a team game (5)

SUDOKU

6				8				
		9					3	8
5	3	8	2					1
		7					9	2
			1		9			
9	4					3		
1					4	9	8	6
4	8					5		
				3				4

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

No.SS6088 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

B	A	C	K	T	O	F	R	O
A	■	A	■	H	■	E	■	N
N	A	T	T	Y	■	B	R	A
D	■	H	■	M	■	R	■	G
A	B	O	R	I	G	I	N	E
G	■	L	■	■	L	■	R	■
E	M	I	R	A	T	E	■	S
D	■	C	■	X	■	■	■	I
■	■	■	D	I	V	A	■	C
B	■	M	■	O	■	T	■	A
R	E	A	L	M	■	H	E	B
A	■	R	■	A	■	L	■	A
N	I	G	H	T	W	E	A	R
D	■	I	■	I	■	T	■	E
Y	E	N	■	C	R	E	S	T

T	■	C	U	E	■	■	■	■
■	H	■	E	N	■	H	■	A
■	■	B	R	A	C	E	L	E
■	R	■	G	■	N	■	R	■
N	■	E	■	A	E	R	I	E
■	L	■	R	■	G	Y	■	R
T	E	■	S	L	A	P	■	■
■	X	■	■	■	I	■	P	■
■	■	■	C	A	N	T	E	E
■	■	■	T	■	A	■	■	D
■	■	■	H	E	B	R	I	D
■	■	■	A	■	L	■	A	■
■	■	■	T	W	E	A	R	■
■	■	■	T	■	E	■	I	A
■	■	■	E	S	T	F	A	L

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	1	7	8	5	2	4	9	6
4	5	9	6	3	7	1	2	8
2	8	6	9	1	4	7	3	5
9	6	8	5	7	3	2	1	4
5	4	1	2	9	6	8	7	3
7	3	2	1	4	8	6	5	9
1	2	4	3	6	5	9	8	7
6	9	5	7	8	1	3	4	2
8	7	3	4	2	9	5	6	1

FAITH

Unique actions of God

Human beings are born in this world, which is not permanent, but the magnum opus of Acharyas is considered as 'Aprakrutham' or 'Divyam' or permanent. How can it be? Velukkudi Sri Krishnan Swamy said in a discourse that the divine works of Acharyas show us the way to eternal bliss, which is permanent; hence, they are called 'Aprakrutham'.

Sri Koorathazhwan, an ardent disciple of Sri Ramanuja, in his work 'Athi Manusha Sthavam', praises the superhuman deeds of God.

God is the custodian of the entire universe. How could He beg King Mahabali for just three feet of space?

Sri Rama says '*Aatmaanam Maanusham Manye Ramam Dasarathathmajam*' – 'I am the son of Dasaratha'. But His deeds were not so.

While everyone in the forest knew Ravana abducting Sri Sita, how did Rama not know and was in search of Her? The bird Jatayu didn't know karma, jnana or bhakti yoga. How did the Lord grant moksha to Jatayu? When Rama's arrow can pierce through seven trees and hit Vali, would it take seven days for Rama to fight with Ravana? Will anyone let his arch-rival go off granting a chance?

Sri Koorathazhwan says whatever God undertakes will be unique.

VERSAILLES

French parliament votes to make abortion constitutional right

REUTERS

The French parliament on Monday voted to anchor the right to abortion in the country's constitution, making France the first country in the world to offer protection for terminating a pregnancy. A congress of both the lower and upper houses easily obtained the three-fifths supermajority needed for the change. AFP

PORT-AU-PRINCE

Haiti government declares state of emergency after huge prison break

AFP

Haiti's government on Sunday declared a state of emergency and night-time curfew after a deadly gang assault on the capital's main prison that allowed thousands of inmates to escape. The curfew will be enforced in the Ouest region, which includes the capital, through Wednesday, the government said in a statement. AFP

SEOUL

South Korea to start legal action against doctors over walkout

AP

South Korea's Health Minister said on Monday that authorities will start inspecting hospitals to take legal action against doctors who have ignored an ultimatum to end a walkout over plans to increase medical school admissions. Around 9,000 resident and intern doctors have walked off the job since February 20. REUTERS

BANGKOK

Thailand's top court clears former PM Yingluck in corruption case

AFP

In the latest legal success for Thailand's powerful Shinawatra family, the country's Supreme Court on Monday cleared former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra — who ruled from 2011 until she was ousted in a 2014 military coup — of corruption in awarding a government contract during her time in office. AFP

Joe Biden, Donald Trump set to win primary races on Super Tuesday

Sriram Lakshman
WASHINGTON DC

Presidential candidates criss-crossed the country in the run up to Super Tuesday this year, when 17 U.S. States and territories hold their primaries and caucuses to pick their contenders for November's general election. The support of more than a third of each party's delegates (i.e., representatives who vote in the parties' conventions to select the candidate) is up for grabs on Tuesday.

Former U.S. President Donald Trump is expected to sweep the Republican contests on Tuesday, with Nikki Haley, the former American Ambassador to the UN, having won just one race thus far (Washington DC). Although, at this stage, a Biden-Trump showdown is all but certain, further campaigning has been planned for the following weeks, with groups of States voting in March and April.

The incumbent, U.S. President Joe Biden, is running uncontested for the Democratic (re)nomination in many of the States, while some States will have other contestants on them, such as self-help author Marianne Williamson and Minnesota Congressman Dean Phillips.

Donald Trump is expected to sweep the Republican contests on Tuesday, with Nikki Haley having won just one race thus far. AFP

Challenging days

Mr. Biden is therefore expected to win the day on Tuesday but the process has revealed that the ultimate path to the White House – when the primaries are completed and Mr. Biden presumably faces Mr. Trump – will be far more challenging for Mr. Biden, than is often the case for a sitting President seeking a second term. Questions about Mr. Biden's age, perceptions about the economy and inflation and Mr. Biden's handling of the Israel-Hamas conflict have been working against him.

Mr. Biden was faced with bleak polling results over the weekend. A *New York Times*/ Sienna College poll indicated that the President had the support of 43% of registered voters versus Mr. Trump's 48%. Some 10% of those who voted for Mr. Biden in 2020 were planning to vote for Mr. Trump in 2024. Democratic primary voters were more or less equally split on whether Mr. Biden should be their party's candidate, as per the poll, with the strongest opposition to the idea from those under 45 years of age. The data also indicated that Mr. Biden's edge over Mr. Trump among non-white non-college graduates had also significantly narrowed since 2020.

After Democratic politicians urged primary voters in the crucial swing State of Michigan to show their frustration with Mr. Biden's policy towards Israel's retaliatory attacks on Gaza, which have claimed more than 30,000 lives, more than 1,00,000 Michiganders cast an 'uncommitted' ballot in last week's Democratic primary.

This was more than the target of 10,000 uncommitted votes and was some five times the number of such votes in the last two presidential elections and is being seen as a warning to Mr. Biden to change his accommodative stance towards Israel. A growing number of voters, not just Muslim Americans but also younger voters across the board, could sit at home on election day if the administration continues with the status quo. A few thousand voters could make a huge difference: Mr. Trump beat former Democratic presidential candidate Hilary Clinton in Michigan by less than 11,000 votes in 2016 and Mr. Biden won the State from Mr Trump in 2020 by a margin of 2.8% (just over 1,54,000 votes).

Call for ceasefire

On Sunday, Vice President Kamala Harris called for an immediate ceasefire in the region and a return of hostages taken by Hamas. On Monday, she was scheduled to meet with Israeli War Cabinet Member Benny Gantz.

Mr Trump has so far won 247 delegates – more than 10 times Ms. Haley's tally. So far his legal troubles have not prevented Mr. Trump from moving forward and he has used them in his campaign rallies to portray himself as the victim of a political witch-hunt.

Ms. Haley, who served on the Trump Cabinet, has said she will remain in the race as long as she is "competitive" but declined to define this term. She has shown some traction among college graduates and independent voters as well those who consider themselves' moderate.

While she has claimed she is not anti-Trump, Ms Haley's attacks on her former boss have become sharper in the run up to Super Tuesday. She has suggested that both lead candidates are too old for the job, has pointed to the fiscal deficit and spending – particularly during Mr. Trump's time in the White House and criticised his isolationist 'foreign policy and admiration for Russian President Vladimir Putin'.

Significantly, Ms. Haley did not commit to supporting Mr. Trump if he is the chosen GOP candidate, when questioned about a pledge all GOP candidates had to take before an intra-party debate that they would support the eventual nominee. She cited changes in the party organisation, specifically Mr. Trump's daughter-in-law Lara Trump's bid for the position of Co-Chair of the Republican National Committee (RNC). "The RNC is now not the same RNC, now it's Trump's daughter in law," she told NBC's *Meet the Press* on Sunday. She also said she did not know if Mr Trump would abide by the country's constitution if elected.

There are also a number of 'down ballot' primaries on Super Tuesday – such as a primary contest for the post of Governor (North Carolina), several for the U.S. House of Representatives, where the Republicans have a four-seat majority, and the U.S. Senate.

Supreme Court restores Donald Trump to ballot

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday unanimously restored Donald Trump to 2024 presidential primary ballots, rejecting State attempts to ban the Republican former president over the Capitol riot. The justices ruled States cannot invoke a post-Civil War constitutional provision to keep presidential candidates from appearing on ballots. That power resides with Congress, the court wrote.

Prachanda quits Congress alliance, joins hands with Oli

Communist coalition back at the helm in Nepal after little more than a year; CPN (Maoist-Centre)'s demand for the post of the National Assembly chair had caused a rift with Nepali Congress

Sanjeev Satgainya
KATHMANDU

Nepal's ruling alliance broke down after Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda's Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) switched sides from the Nepali Congress and joined with the K.P. Sharma Oli's Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) on Monday.

The latest development puts the Nepali Congress, the largest party in parliament with 88 seats, in the Opposition seat.

Leaders from both the CPN (Maoist-Centre) and the CPN-UML said that they have reached a new deal to form the government, once again bringing a communist coalition to the helm in Kathmandu after little more than a year.

The Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) and the Janata Samajbadi Party will also be part of the new Maoist-UML coalition.

Mr. Prachanda on Monday evening dismissed all his Ministers and inducted three new Ministers without portfolios into his Cabinet – one each from his party, the CPN-UML and the RSP – and kept all 25 portfolios with him.

Mr. Prachanda's CPN (Maoist-Centre) party had fought the 2022 general elections with the Nepali Congress. However, Mr. Prachanda was elected Prime Minister with the backing of the CPN-UML, the second largest party with 78 seats, on December 25, 2022, after the Nepali Congress refused to oblige his demand to lead the government.

Musical chair: Pushpa Kamal Dahal shakes hand with K.P. Sharma Oli in Kathmandu on Monday. ANI

Later in February 2023, the CPN-UML pulled out of the government after the CPN (Maoist-Centre) decided to back Ram Chandra Poudel, a Congress leader, for the post of President. The Nepali Congress subsequently joined the government.

Hari Sharma, a writer and political analyst, says the Maoist-Congress coalition had become untenable, especially after some Nepali Congress leaders began questioning Mr. Prachanda's style of governance and the relevance of the alliance. "There is nothing to be surprised about this change. This coalition was not a matter of if but when."

Cracks began to appear in the Maoist-Congress coalition lately over various issues. But the post of the National Assembly chair had become the major bone of contention. The Maoist-Centre's demand that it be given the National Assembly chair post had rattled the Nepali Congress.

The National Assembly chair post is crucial, for he is a member of the Constitutional Council which recommends members to constitutional bodies. Nepal is electing the new National Assembly chair on March 12.

Nepal's electoral system is such that it is almost impossible for any party to secure a majority in the 275-strong House of Representatives to form a government on its own. Of the 275 members, 165 are elected under the direct election system, or first-past-the-post system, and the remaining 110 are elected under the proportional representation system.

It was because of that Mr. Prachanda found room to manoeuvre and managed to wrest the post of the Prime Minister from the first and second largest parties despite his party coming third with just 32 seats in parliament.

The CPN-UML and the Maoists merged in 2018 to form the Nepal Communist Party (NCP) in a bid to form a large Left force in Nepal. However, a power struggle between Mr. Prachanda and CPN-UML Chairman K.P. Sharma Oli led to the implosion of the NCP in 2021.

A Maoist-UML unity in Nepal is something Beijing has always wanted. It is unclear how India, which has traditionally enjoyed its clout in Nepal, will react to a suddenly evolved left-dominated dispensation in Kathmandu.

(Sanjeev Satgainya is an independent journalist based in Kathmandu)

Moscow summons German Ambassador

Associated Press

Moscow summoned Germany's Ambassador to Russia's Foreign Ministry on Monday, days after the release of an audio recording on social media purporting to show German officers discussing support for Ukraine.

The state RIA Novosti outlet broadcast footage of German Ambassador Alexander Graf Lambsdorff entering the Foreign Ministry building in Moscow, surrounded by a crowd of journalists.

Margarita Simonyan, chief editor of Russian state-funded TV channel RT, had posted the audio on social media on Friday, the same day that late opposition politician Alexei Navalny was laid to rest.

The 38-minute recording features military officers discussing in German how Taurus long-range cruise missiles could be used by Kyiv against invading Russian forces. German authorities have not questioned the authenticity of the recording.

China eliminates Premier's annual news conference

Associated Press
BEIJING

China's government said on Monday that it is eliminating an annual news conference by the Prime Minister that was one of the rare times a top Chinese leader took questions from journalists.

Lou Qinjian, the spokesperson for the National People's Congress, said on the eve of the opening of the legislature's annual session that Premier Li Qiang would not hold a news conference at its conclusion, as Premiers have done every year since 1993.

The weeklong meeting of the largely ceremonial congress, which opens on Tuesday, is being closely watched for any indications of what steps the government will take to boost the struggling economy.

Shehbaz Sharif takes oath as Pakistan's Prime Minister

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Shehbaz Sharif on Monday took the oath as Prime Minister of Pakistan, assuming the cash-strapped country's reins for a second time, nearly a month after an inconclusive election marred by allegations of vote rigging.

President Arif Alvi administered the oath to Mr. Shehbaz, the 24th elected Prime Minister in a ceremony held at the Aiwan-i-Sadr, the presidential palace.

The ceremony was attended by the three services chiefs, senior officials and diplomats.

Mr. Shehbaz earlier served as Prime Minister of a coalition government from April 2022 to August 2023 before parliament was dissolved to hold general elections last month.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. 10 DATED: 04-03-2024

Tenders (Pre-qualification and / or commercial offers) through e-procurement portal (http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) are invited for supply of the following Goods/Services/Equipments

Tender Nos as per e-Portal	Nomenclature of Items/Services/Equipment	Tender value in Crores (Approx.)	Last date for submission of documents & time @17.00 hrs.
KSRTC/ 2023-24/ SE0838	Engaging an agency for providing IT Professionals on Contract Basis(Short Term Tender)	3.24	09.03.2024
KSRTC/ 2023-24/ IND0074	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Universal Sheet Metal Nibbling Machine, Vertical Band SAW Machine, Cylinder Head Pressure Testing Machine, Cylinder Head Seat & Guide Machine, Vertical Boring Machine, Vertical Honing machine & 3 Ton capacity of diesel Fork Lifter on turnkey Basis.	2.90	04.04.2024
KSRTC/ 2023-24/ IND0075	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of H.D. 3 Phase Test Bench for Testing of Alternator-Starter on turnkey basis.	0.15	21.04.2024
KSRTC/ 2023-24/ IND0076	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Common Rail Injector testing machine (DCI 700) on turnkey basis.	0.50	26.04.2024
KSRTC/ 2023-24/ IND0077	Supply of Liquid Urea.	5.00	04.04.2024
KSRTC/ 2023-24/ IND0079	Supply of Steering Assemblies and Components.	3.00	04.04.2024
KSRTC/ 2023-24/ IND0080	Supply of Gaskets.	2.50	04.04.2024

Further any addendum / corrigendum in respect of change in calendar of events, specification, scope, other tender terms and conditions etc, will be uploaded/ published through e-portal only.
NOTE:-Interested suppliers need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information log into **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. In case of further assistance, contact e-procurement cell (**Phone. No. 08022230960, 080–22234115**). Interested suppliers may also contact e-procurement cell for training on bid submission. Mail to **Support@eprochelpdesk.com** for further information if required. In case of bidders need assistance from KSRTC, can communicate at cosp@ksrtc.org, (contact: 7760990225, 7760990224)

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(Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/CP/4064/MAA/2023-24

INBRIEF

Powergrid Corporation to raise ₹1,200 crore via bonds

Power Grid Corporation of India (Powergrid) on Monday said its board has approved a proposal to raise up to ₹1,200 crore by issuing bonds. "The Committee of Directors for Bonds approved the raising of bonds as unsecured, non-convertible, non-cumulative, redeemable, taxable Powergrid bonds - LXXVI (76th) issue up to ₹1,200 crore," the company said in an exchange filing. The firm said the issue base size is ₹400 crore with a green shoe option of ₹800 crore. PTI

RBI bars IIFL Finance from disbursing gold loans

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) directed IIFL Finance Ltd. to cease and desist, with immediate effect from sanctioning or disbursing gold loans or assigning/securitising/selling any of its gold loans. The curbs were imposed after the RBI stumbled upon certain material supervisory concerns pertaining to the gold-loan portfolio of the company. However, IIFL can continue to service existing gold-loan portfolio through usual collection and recovery processes.

Moody's raises India's 2024 GDP forecast sharply to 6.8%

Moody's Investor Service sharply raised its gross domestic product (GDP) forecast for India on Monday, following the strong momentum seen in the South Asian economy in recent quarters, which the ratings agency expects will continue into 2024. "India's stronger-than-expected data in 2023 has caused us to raise our 2024 growth estimate to 6.8% from 6.1%," Moody's said. "India is likely to stay the fastest growing among G-20 economies over our forecast horizon." REUTERS

RBI tasks NBBL to ensure net banking is interoperable in 2024

The new system is expected to facilitate quicker settlement of funds for merchants; right now, a customer wanting to make a payment from a bank account to a merchant needs the bank to have an existing arrangement with the merchant's PA

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in a bid to speed up settlement of funds for merchants, has tasked NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL) to implement an interoperable system for Internet Banking and expects the system to be introduced in the current calendar year.

"Internet Banking is a preferred channel for payments like income tax, insurance premium, mutual fund payments and e-commerce," Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Monday.

"At present, such transactions processed through Payment Aggregators (PAs) are not interoperable, i.e., a bank is required to separately integrate with each PA of different online merchants. As a result, if a customer wants to make payment from his bank account to a certain merchant, the merchant's PA and customer's bank must have an arrangement," Mr. Das explained.

"Given the multiple number of PAs, it is difficult for each bank to integrate with each PA. Further, due to lack of a payment system and a set of rules for these transactions, there are delays in actual receipt of payments by merchants and settlement risks," he added.

The RBI had earlier envisaged an interoperable payment system for Internet banking transactions.

"In pursuance of this objective, we have given approval for implementing such an interoperable system to NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. We expect the launch of this interoperable payment system for Internet banking during the current calendar year. The new system will facilitate quicker settlement of funds for merchants," he said.

Seamless payments

RBI asks NBBL to create system that facilitates easier online payments for merchants via customers' netbanking facility

- The RBI had envisaged an interoperable system since it is difficult for banks to integrate with multiple payment aggregators
- Currently, a bank is required to separately integrate with each payment aggregator of different online merchants

- Internet Banking is preferred for payments like income tax, insurance premium, mutual fund investments, etc.

FM urges swift clarity on GST classifications

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday stressed the urgent need to bring clarity on classification-related issues under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, urging officials to resolve issues "at the earliest through appropriate channels".

Addressing the first-ever 'National Conference of Enforcement Chiefs of State and the Central GST Formations', Ms. Sitharaman urged GST officials to engage with stakeholders to understand their concerns, enhance compliance, streamline processes, and work collaboratively towards making the system more transparent and efficient.

'Plugging loopholes'

Stressing on the use of technology to plug loopholes and improve taxpayer services, the Minister called for seamless coordination of officials across States "in the larger national interest". Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary expressed optimism about achieving a monthly GST revenue target of ₹2 lakh crore soon.

'Centre's AI 'under-testing' advisory only for big firms'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar said that the IT Ministry's advisory on Saturday that 'under-testing' A.I. applications must be approved by the government before general public availability was intended "only for large platforms and will not apply to start-ups."

The advisory suggested tech firms "to ensure that use of AI model(s)/LLM/Generative AI, software(s) or algorithm(s) ... not permit its users to host, display ... any unlawful content," and that "use of under-testing/unreliable AI model(s)/LLM/Generative AI, software(s) or algorithm(s) and its availability to the users on Indian Internet must be done so with explicit permission of the GoI and be deployed only after appropriately labelling the possible and inherent fallibility or unreliability of the output."

Rajeev Chandrasekhar

The advisory came on the heels of Mr. Chandrasekhar's pointed response to Google's Gemini chatbot, whose response to the query, "Is [Prime Minister Narendra] Modi a fascist?" had circulated widely on social media, before Google took steps to prevent it from answering the question.

"I'm still learning how to answer this question," is one of the chatbot's responses to this query now.

'Ukraine war dulled exports of goods'

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

The war in Ukraine had contributed to dampening merchandise export growth in FY24, which had not been as robust as in the past three years, Vipul Bansal, joint secretary, Department of Commerce, said on Monday.

Speaking at the International Engineering Sourcing Show, organised by Engineering Export Promotion Council of India (EEPC India), he said exports had been impacted by several external factors. Exports from sectors like gems and jewellery had been impacted by the Ukraine war, while engineering exports, constituting almost 26%, had maintained its composition this year.

A $1 trillion merchandise export target by 2030 requires a 12% growth rate, but challenges like the war persist, Mr. Bansal said. He urged EEPC to add more people in the export value chain to achieve growth.

Mr. Bansal said the PLI scheme must not only aid in import substitution, but should become a tool to grow exports as well.

Blue Star targets 15% of room AC market

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

B. Thiagarajan

Blue Star Ltd. aims to capture a 15% share in the room air-conditioner (RAC) market by selling 13 lakh units in FY25, Managing Director B. Thiagarajan asserted.

"Last year we sold eight lakh RACs, and this year we are hopeful of touching 10 lakh due to harsh summer," he said. "Next year, we are planning to sell 13 lakh units," the air-conditioning major's MD added.

The firm's Himachal Pradesh (HP) plant makes six lakh units, the Sri City facility 3 lakh, while one lakh units are outsourced.

Next year, HP and Sri City would together account for 12 lakh units while one lakh would be outsourced, he added. Blue Star currently has a market share of 13.8% in RACs.

On output, he said the existing plants were operating at full capacity, while capacity was regularly being added at Sri City.

Blue Star posted ₹7,997 crore in consolidated revenue in FY23 and this year it could touch ₹10,000 crore.

Indian start-ups urge CCI to order Google to reinstate apps

Reuters
NEW DELHI

A group representing Indian start-ups has asked the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to order Google to reinstate apps it had removed for policy violations, a letter seen by Reuters shows, escalating a showdown with the U.S. giant in a key market.

Google on Friday removed more than 100 Indian apps, including popular ones by Matrimony.com, for not complying with its policy of paying a service fee when in-app payment options other than Google's are used.

The start-ups have now taken the issue to the country's antitrust watchdog CCI. The Commission has already spent months looking into start-ups' complaint that Google is not following a 2022 antitrust directive that prevents it from taking adverse measures against companies which use alternate billing systems. Google denies wrongdoing.

The Alliance of Digital India Foundation (ADIF) in its March 1 letter to the CCI said Google's decision to remove apps was a "brazen move" which was anti-competitive and the regulator should ask the company to reverse its decision.

Google's move will cause "irreparable harm to the entire market", ADIF said in the letter, which is not public.

Google declined to comment on the letter. ADIF and CCI did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The app removal has sparked criticism from Indian companies, many of which have been at odds with Google for years and criticised its practices.

Tata Motors to demerge into two listed companies

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tata Motors Ltd.'s (TML) board has approved a demerger of the company into two separate listed entities: One for its commercial vehicles and related investments business and the other for passenger and electric vehicles, Jaguar Land Rover and related investments.

The demerger would be implemented through a National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) scheme of arrangement and all shareholders of TML would continue to have identical shareholding in both entities, Tata Motors said in a filing.

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

THE HINDU GROUP

Shree Jagannatha- Lord of the Universe is a picture-rich coffee-table book on the fascinating Lord Jagannatha temple in Puri, Odisha.

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MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	73,872	0.09
US Dollar	82.90	0.01
Gold	64,200	1.39
Brent oil	83.20	-----

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3317.15	-16.10
Adani Ports	1342.60	4.30
Apollo Hosp	6033.30	-100.00
Asian Paints	2831.75	-18.05
Axis Bank	1106.75	10.05
Bajaj Auto	8207.30	166.00
Bajaj Finserv	1619.30	9.15
Bajaj Finance	6602.45	18.10
Bharti Airtel	1133.50	2.40
BPCL	640.45	15.25
Britannia Ind	4838.90	-83.65
Cipla	1471.50	-10.80
Coal India	455.40	6.90
Divis Lab	3482.30	-26.20
Dr Reddys Lab	6335.10	96.20
Eicher Motors	3751.45	-108.90
Grasim Ind	2234.15	-11.60
HCL Tech	1637.95	-8.35
HDFC Bank	1432.70	1.95
HDFC Life	610.30	18.00
Hero MotoCorp	4611.70	30.25
Hindalco	524.95	2.10
Hind Unilever	2422.00	5.80
ICICI Bank	1092.35	7.70
IndusInd Bank	1531.30	5.30
Infosys	1637.20	-19.10
ITC	409.10	-2.95
JSW Steel	824.30	-20.65
Kotak Bank	1727.20	3.50
L&T	3644.45	-10.80
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5216.85	-78.05
M&M	1921.05	-39.05
Maruti Suzuki	11594.15	26.95
NestleIndia	2589.10	-5.80
NTPC	353.85	12.10
ONGC	279.20	7.30
PowerGrid Corp	294.65	7.80
Reliance Ind	3014.80	32.65
SBI Life	1517.95	-28.85
State Bank	772.05	-1.25
Sun Pharma	1552.10	1.55
TataConsumerProduct	1203.25	-4.00
Tata Motors	987.20	-1.15
Tata Steel	153.10	-2.15
TCS	4080.70	-26.40
Tech Mahindra	1280.05	7.55
Titan	3732.40	-31.70
UltraTech Cement	9978.40	-127.95
UPL	474.25	-1.80
Wipro	520.50	-2.35

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on March 04

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.69	83.01
Euro	89.71	90.06
British Pound	104.80	105.21
Japanese Yen (100)	54.98	55.20
Chinese Yuan	11.49	11.53
Swiss Franc	93.60	93.96
Singapore Dollar	61.55	61.80
Canadian Dollar	60.95	61.21
Malaysian Ringitt	17.50	17.58
Australian Dollar	53.92	54.13

Source:Indian Bank

BLOW FOR CSK

Conway set to undergo surgery, likely to miss this edition of IPL

FILE PHOTO: R. RAGU

New Zealand opener Devon Conway is all but ruled out of the Indian Premier League (IPL) due to a left thumb injury that will take eight weeks to heal, dealing a blow to Chennai Super Kings. Conway sustained the injury during the T20I series against Australia last month and will undergo a surgery on his left thumb.

FRESH START

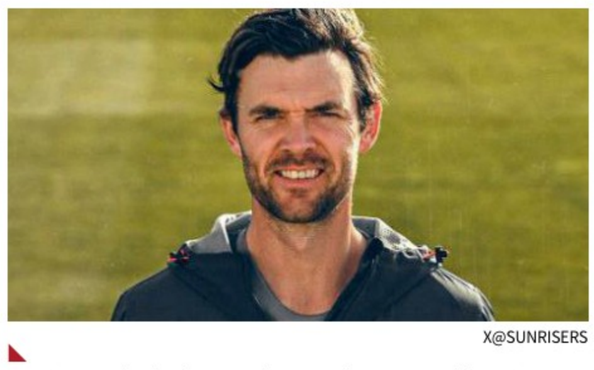
SRH appoints Cummins as captain for IPL 2024

FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Australia's World Cup-winning captain Pat Cummins will lead Sunrisers Hyderabad in the upcoming Indian Premier League, the franchise announced on Monday. Cummins replaced South African Aiden Markram, who led the franchise in the 2023 season. This will be Cummins' first captaincy stint in the IPL.

OPPORTUNITY

James Franklin replaces Steyn as SRH pace bowling coach



X@SUNRISERS

Sunrisers Hyderabad on Monday named James Franklin as its pace bowling coach for the upcoming IPL. The Kiwi replaces Dale Steyn, who has sought a break. "Dale Steyn will not be joining us this season due to personal reasons and James Franklin will be the Pace Bowling coach for this season," SRH announced.

THRILLER

Sri Lanka pips Bangladesh in a high-scoring encounter

AFP

Sri Lanka beat Bangladesh by three runs in a thrilling T20I series opener in Sylhet on Monday.
The scores: Sri Lanka 206/3 in 20 overs (Kusal Mendis 59, Samarawickrama 61 n.o., Asalanka 44 n.o.) bt Bangladesh 203/8 in 20 overs (Mahmudullah 54, Jaker Ali 68).

Mumbai thrashes Tamil Nadu by an innings and 70 runs

The visitors' batters fail to fire yet again to be shot out for just 162; Mulani picks up four wickets in the second innings, while Shardul, Avasthi and Kotian scalp two each; the hosts enter the summit clash for the 48th time

RANJI TROPHY

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Spinning a web: Left-armer Mulani's four wickets hastened Tamil Nadu's end. EMMANUAL YOGINI

The writing was on the wall after Mumbai's lower-order onslaught on day two. It turned out to be a manic Monday for Tamil Nadu as the hosts completed a thumping innings and 70-run win against their familiar foe to book a berth in the Ranji Trophy final for the 48th time.

Forty-nine minutes after tea on day three at the Sharad Pawar Cricket Academy ground, Shreyas Iyer – who had dropped a sitter off the first ball of Tamil Nadu's second innings – caught a miscued heave off Sandeep Warrier's blade to give Shams Mulani his fourth wicket to bring an end to the visitors' innings.

Tamil Nadu was bundled out for 162 in a little over two sessions for the second time in three days.

At the start of the day, with a lead of 207 runs and Tanush Kotian and Tushar Deshpande having added more than 60 runs for the last wicket, Tamil Nadu hoped to wind up the Mumbai innings as quickly as possible.

Just when Kotian was nearing a rare milestone of a No. 10 scoring two hundreds in succession, Sai Sudharshan lunged forward to pouch an excellent catch off Washington Sundar to dismiss Deshpande.

Kotian was stranded on 89 (126b, 12x4) as Mumbai ended its first essay at 378.

Thanks to the last three wickets adding 272 runs, Mumbai finished with a lead of 232.

Shardul Thakur and Mohit Avasthi then got into action right away as the Tamil Nadu top-order collapsed yet again.

Sai Sudharsan (caught behind) and N. Jagadeesan (played across to be leg-before) were dismissed by Shardul while Washington, promoted to No. 3, poked at one from Avasthi to get wicketkeeper Hardik Tamore into action again.

Tamore then accepted an edge to end Indrajith's (70, 105b, 9x4) impressive knock. When Vijay Shankar was stumped off Shams Mulani, it gave Tamore his fifth victim with the gloves and ended all of TN's hopes of making Mumbai bat again.

The last five wickets fell for only nine runs to give the Mumbai spin duo of Mulani and Kotian a booster ahead of the final.

The scores:
Tamil Nadu — 1st innings: 146.
Mumbai — 1st innings: Prithvi Shaw c Indrajith b Kuldeep Sen 5, Bhupen Lalwani lbw b Sai Kishore 15, Musheer Khan st. Jagadeesan b Sai Kishore 55, Mohit Avasthi st. Jagadeesan b Sai Kishore 2, Ajinkya Rahane c Indrajith b Sai Kishore 19, Shreyas Iyer b Warrier 3, Hardik Tamore c Washington b Sai Kishore 35, Shams Mulani b Sai Kishore 0, Shardul Thakur c Jagadeesan b Kuldeep Sen 109, Tanush Kotian (not out) 89, Tushar Deshpande c Sai Sudharsan b Washington 26; Extras (lb-12, nb-3, pen-5): 20; Total (in 106.5 overs): 378.
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-40, 3-48, 4-91, 5-96, 6-106, 7-106, 8-211, 9-290.
Tamil Nadu bowling: Warrier 21-0-77-1, Kuldeep Sen 17-0-75-2, Mohammed 8-2-21-0, Sai Kishore 38-9-99-6, Ajith Ram 14-1-68-0, Washington 7.5-0-21-1, Pradosh 1-1-0-0.
Tamil Nadu — 2nd innings: Sai Sudharsan c Tamore b Shardul 5, N. Jagadeesan lbw b Shardul 0, Washington Sundar c Tamore b Avasthi 4, B. Indrajith c Tamore b Avasthi 70, Pradosh Ranjan Paul c Tamore b Kotian 25, Vijay Shankar st. Tamore b Mulani 24, R. Sai Kishore b Kotian 21, M. Mohammed c Rahane b Mulani 0, S. Ajith Ram b Mulani 4, Sandeep Warrier c Shreyas b Mulani 0, Kuldeep Sen (not out) 1; Extras (b-5, lb-2, nb-1): 8; Total (in 51.5 overs): 162.
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-6, 3-10, 4-83, 5-121, 6-153, 7-154, 8-160, 9-161.
Mumbai bowling: Shardul 10-4-16-2, Avasthi 10-2-26-2, Deshpande 9-1-26-0, Mulani 13.5-1-53-4, Kotian 5-0-18-2, Musheer 4-0-16-0.
Player-of-the-Match: Shardul Thakur.

We lost the match at the toss, says TN coach Kulkarni

Solid backing: Kulkarni said he wouldn't fully blame Sai Kishore as the skipper's instincts had worked well till the semifinal. EMMANUAL YOGINI

S. Dipak Ragav
MUMBAI

At the end of day two, R. Sai Kishore defended his decision to bat first on a pitch with generous grass covering that was friendly to the seamers, saying he felt batting last would be difficult.

The Tamil Nadu skipper said, "I do a lot of things out of my instinct. It was my decision, and that instinct has worked so far. Only by day five, we will know if it is correct."

Unfortunately, the TN batters did not put up a fight to ensure either the match lasted five days or Mumbai batted again.

After the humiliating innings defeat, TN coach Sulakshan Kulkarni did not mince words when he said his side lost the match at 9 a.m. on the first day.

"The way we played, we could have done better. We won the toss, and we should have bowled. We planned everything and decided to play three seamers by dropping a batter who had done well. The main idea was that if we win the toss, we will bowl," said Kulkarni.

While he was critical of the captain's decision to bat first, the coach felt he could see why the skipper chose to do what he did. "I wouldn't fully blame him either because if you look at it positively, it has worked for him, and he got the team to the semis."

Though Sai Kishore was the best bowler in the match after taking six wickets, he lacked support from the other end, and the coach conceded that fellow left-arm spinner S. Ajith Ram was under-utilised.

Despite the disappointment of the loss and the efforts of the batters who failed to adapt to pacer-friendly conditions, the 57-year-old praised their efforts this season.

"A few batters scored more than 500 runs, and Indrajith played some crucial knocks against Karnataka, Punjab and even today. It gives a lot of pleasure watching his batting."

"We have done well to reach the semifinals after a long time, though a trophy would have been better and an icing on the cake," said Kulkarni.

Kotian. EMMANUAL YOGINI

I targeted 500 runs and 30 wickets in the season: Kotian

S. Dipak Ragav
MUMBAI

Despite its top-order not firing, Mumbai has reaped the benefits of its lower-order batters' valuable contributions. One person who has done that effectively this year has been Tanush Kotian. The 25-year-old has bailed out the 41-time champion a few times, including in the semifinals against Tamil Nadu with an unbeaten 89.

He walked in at 211 for eight and put the game beyond TN with his chanceless knock. It shouldn't come as a surprise, though, as the all-rounder said he has worked on his skills with a number in mind.

"I had a target like scoring 500 runs and 30 odd wickets because last year I showed that I could bat down the order and contribute 350 or 380 runs (sic 303 runs)," said Kotian, who now has 481 runs and 22 wickets with one more game left in the season.

He felt that having someone like Shardul Thakur at No. 8 ensured the team was confident of posting decent totals even if it lost the top-order cheaply.

Rathod-Wadkar stand gives Vidarbha a second wind

Abhishek Saini
NAGPUR

The fifties from Yash Rathod and Akshay Wadkar in the face of an impending crisis not only held Vidarbha through the third day but also put it in the driver's seat in the first Ranji Trophy semifinal against Madhya Pradesh at the VCA Stadium (Civil Lines) here on Monday.

Their 158-run sixth-wicket alliance started when Vidarbha was staring down the barrel, at 161 for five, merely 59 runs ahead in the second innings. The pair's session-and-a-half-long defiance saw Vidarbha end at 343 for six, 261 runs ahead.

The pair started ticking ahead in singles against spinners Kumar Kartikeya and Saransh Jain. While Rathod gave only a glimpse of the trademark left-hander grace in his first essay, he stamped it with pleasure in the second - the back-to-back flicks off Kulwant Khejroliya being a case in point.

Captain Wadkar displayed great restraint, getting to fifty off 92 deliveries, but finally gave in at the stroke of stumps, indulging in a slash and holing out at second slip on 77 runs. Rathod was unbeaten on 97.

Same vein

Earlier in the morning, Dhruv Shorey resumed in the same vein he had closed the second day. The loss of Akshay Wakhare did not pinch as Shorey and Aman Mokhade wiped off the 69-run deficit inside 20 overs.

Mokhade was undaunted taking on the bouncers against Avesh Khan and Khejroliya even with traps at deep-fine and deep square-leg in place. He brought up his maiden First-Class half-century in 82 deliveries.

Kartikeya accounted for both batters on either side of the lunch break. The left-arm spinner had Shorey caught behind before getting Mokhade leg-before on the first delivery post lunch.

Karun Nair flirted with danger, slashing outside off throughout his 43-ball stint.

He pocketed five boundaries, two of them through the slip cordon, before an in-seaming delivery from Khejroliya crashed into his stumps. Madhya Pradesh had little inkling that Rathod and Wadkar were just getting started.

The scores:
Vidarbha —1st innings: 170.
Madhya Pradesh —1st innings: 252.
Vidarbha —2nd innings: Atharva Taide lbw b Avesh 2, Dhruv Shorey c Mantri b Kartikeya 40, Akshay Wakhare c Gawali b Anubhav 1, Aman Mokhade lbw b Kartikeya 59, Karun Nair b Khejroliya 38, Yash Rathod (batting) 97, Akshay Wadkar c (sub) Kushwah b Anubhav 77, Aditya Sarwate (batting) 14; Extras (b-4, lb-14, nb-1): 15; Total (for six wkts. in 90 overs): 343.
Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-17, 3-90, 4-137, 5-161, 6-319.
Madhya Pradesh bowling: Avesh 18-3-65-1, Venkatesh 3-0-20-0, Anubhav 13-1-68-2, Kulwant 13-1-45-1, Kartikeya 27-4-73-2, Saransh 7-1-28-0, Sagar 9-1-30-0.

Rescue act: Wadkar and Rathod forged a partnership that tilted the scales in their team's favour. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Wankhede Stadium to host Ranji final from March 10

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Mumbai will host the Ranji Trophy final at the Wankhede Stadium from March 10. It will only be the second Ranji game at the Big W this season.

Irrespective of its opponent, the final will be played in Mumbai due to the tournament rules. Since Mumbai has more points in the league stage than Madhya Pradesh and Vidarbha, it will enjoy the home advantage.

"The Wankhede Stadium has been the home of Mumbai cricket for almost half a century. So considering the legacy of the tournament and the importance of such a big game for the whole Mumbai cricket community, it is fitting that the final is played here," Ajinkya Naik, the Mumbai Cricket Association secretary, said.

Four of Mumbai's five home games – including the quarterfinal and semifinal - have been played at the suburban facility. The game at the Wankhede - against Uttar Pradesh in January - was Mumbai's only loss of the season.

It is understood that the team management preferred SPCA for the knockouts due to the nature of the pitch over Wankhede. Besides, the Wankhede was advised to be kept aside for Indian Premier League preparation. A combination of broadcast requirements, spectator convenience and avoiding-flak for prioritising the IPL over Ranji, the MCA is understood to have been advised by BCCI to conduct the final at Wankhede.

INBRIEF

Injured NZ seamer O'Rourke out of second Australia Test

Black Caps seamer Will O'Rourke will miss the second Test against Australia in Christchurch this week with a hamstring strain, New Zealand Cricket said on Monday. Uncapped pace-bowler Ben Sears has been called up in his place for the second and final home game against Australia, starting Friday at Hagley Park.

Sony Pictures extends collaboration with UEFA

Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI) has extended its collaboration with the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) with the renewal of exclusive broadcast and digital rights for three years from 2024-25 to the 2026-27 season. Sony will broadcast some of the biggest European club football leagues, including the UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League, UEFA Conference League, UEFA Super Cup and UEFA Youth League.

Jaismine loses to Taguchi in the round-of-64 bout

Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Jaismine Lamboria lost 0-5 to Japanese Ayaka Taguchi in a women's 60kg round-of-64 contest in the first World Olympic boxing qualifier at the E-Work Arena in Busto Arsizio, Italy, late on Sunday. With Jaismine's defeat, three of the nine Indians in fray for Olympic quota places exited from the event on the opening day. National champion Lakshya Chahar will take on Iranian Meysam Gheshlaghi in an 80kg round-of-64 contest late on Monday night.

Big win for Torpedoes against Hawks in PVL

Bengaluru Torpedoes scored a dominant 15-6, 15-11, 15-12, win over Hyderabad Black Hawks in the third season of the RuPay-Prime Volleyball League held in Chennai on Monday. T.R. Sethu was named Player of the match.

Karung nets thrice for Bangalore City FC

Karung Tair scored a hat-trick as Bangalore City FC blanked ADE FC 5-0 in the BDFA A-division league championship on Monday.

The results: DYES FC 1 (Santosh Tamata 49) bt Income Tax FC 0; Bangalore City FC 5 (Karung Tair 11, 30, 46, Tejas Thomas 80, Bobby Singh 80+4) bt ADE FC 0; Roots FS 1 (Rayan Shakeer 32) bt Jawahar Union FC 0.

Bengaluru City University claims hockey silver medal

Bengaluru City University (BCU) clinched the silver after losing to Rabindranath Tagore University, Bhopal 3-4 in the hockey final of the Khelo India University Games in Guwahati.

Reigning Indian Derby champion Enabler dies

Tragic news struck the Indian racing circuit this afternoon as Enabler, the reigning Indian Derby champion, lost his battle to a prolonged lung infection. This son of Ruler of The World-Rozene, encountered this infection during his journey to Kolkata a few weeks ago and succumbed to the disease on Monday (Mar. 4) at Kolkata, just a day after the Invitation Cup where he was scheduled to compete.

Mallorca stuns Girona; Bilbao holds Barcelona

Girona had a chance to reverse its recent slump and regain some ground in LaLiga. But it continued to subside as it lost 0-1 at Mallorca. That gave Barcelona a chance to take second, but it drew 0-0 in Bilbao.

LaLiga: Mallorca 1 (Copete 33) bt Girona 0; Athletic Bilbao 0 drew with Barcelona 0.

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: (semifinal), Jio Cinema App, 9.30 a.m.
PVL: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6.30 p.m.
WPL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Indian table tennis teams script history, qualify for Paris Olympics

Men and women make the cut through World team rankings; sides will consist of four members, wherein the fourth player will be a substitute

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Great feeling: The Indian players are delighted to be playing in the quadrennial mega event as a team. GETTY IMAGES/REUTERS

For the first time in the history of Indian table tennis, the National men's and women's teams qualified for the Olympics through the World team rankings, the final list of which was released on Monday. The Indian men's team is ranked 15 while the women are 13.

"It is a very big achievement. It's been a long process. A big thanks to the Executive Committee of Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI), coaches and players who have made it happen," TTFI secretary Kamlesh Mehta told *The Hindu*.

It will be a four-member team wherein the fourth player will be a substitute. However, it might be a tough call for TTFI to make because in the 'Race to Paris' rankings, all the four players are fighting for a place in singles as well as in the team. Sharath is at the top at 53 followed by Manav Thakkar (57), Harmeet Desai (57) and G. Sathiyan (62).

As for the two spots in singles in men and women being available as a result of the team making it to Paris, the TTFI Secretary, said, "we will decide on it (who will play singles) as we have time till June 18 to give the names [to ITTF]."

Planning ahead

Harmeet urged TTFI to release the team list by the month of May so that players get enough time to prepare. "It's great India has qualified. I hope TTFI comes up with the final list of who will make up the team, and who plays doubles (a tie in Olympics consists of four singles and one doubles) by May so that we get enough time to prepare," he said.

G. Sathiyan said, "It is a historic achievement. It's a double bonanza that women have made the cut. Our first goal was to qualify and we have been working for a long time to improve our world rankings.

"My focus will be on making the cut for Olympics in mixed doubles with Manika Batra."

One last shot

Sharath Kamal, a veteran of four Olympics, said it is a great feeling of playing in the quadrennial event as a team.

"It is going to my last Olympics. If we can make the quarters, it will be huge." Sharath said he will play in quite a few WTT tournaments to see how his singles form is. "I will play in the Singapore Smash and Saudi Smash tournaments," he said.

Manika Batra and Sreeja Akula have been assured of a spot in the Indian women's team due to their World rankings.

The third spot in the team will most probably be a toss-up between Ayhika Mukherjee, who stunned women's World No.1 Sun Yingsha of China in the World teams in Busan, and Archana Kamath.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Karnataka takes a humongous 393-run first-innings lead

Karnataka left Vidarbha on the mat, taking a humongous 393-run first-innings lead, on day two of its Col. CK Nayudu (U-23) Trophy semifinal in Nagpur on Monday.

After overnight centurion and skipper R. Smaran fell six runs short of a double-century (194, 283b, 20x4, 4x6), Paras Gurbax Arya (4/37) and Mohsin Khan (5/13) ran through the Vidarbha line-up to skittle out the host for a paltry 63 in reply to the visitors' 466. In its second essay, Karnataka was 63 for three at stumps.

The scores:

Karnataka 466 in 122.3 overs (K.V. Aneesh 143, R. Smaran 194, Yashovardhan Parantap 54 n.o., Harsh Dubey 4/121) & 63 for three in 16 overs vs. Vidarbha 73 in 37.2 overs (Paras Gurbax Arya 4/37, Mohsin Khan 5/13).

Samit and Sachin star

Samit Dravid (93) & Sachin Shinde (five for 14 & six for 76) helped Vijaya CC defeat Century Cricketers by an innings and 187 runs in the KSCA (Group I) second division league.

The scores:

Vijaya 514/9 decl. in 74 overs (Swapnil S. Yelave 78, Samit Dravid 93, Vaibhav Govekar 68, A. Yuvraj 60, Sachin Shinde 69, Nischal Das 44, Ignatius Sebastian 3/86, M. Krishna Srivatsa 3/94) bt Century Cricketers 119 in 27 overs (Maribasava Gowda 3/16, Sachin Shinde 5/14) & 208 in 57.2 overs (Mitrakant Singh Yadav 31, M. Krishna Srivatsa 32, Mohammed Sadiq 38, Sachin Shinde 6/76).

Modern 315/9 in 90 overs (R. Suhas 26, S.A. Sachin 132 n.o., Karthik Ramanna 28, Pranesh Desai 29, Nithin Naidu 4/107, Adarsh Prakash 3/70) drew with Herons 236 in 68.2 overs (Vineeth Manjunath 82, Suhasa Adiga 26, Shivratana 38, Sai Susheel Reddy 25, Amogh Srikanth 28, Pranesh Desai 5/107).

Chintamani SA 355/9 in 89.1 overs (Anas Sheikh 65, Saharsh M. Reddy 89, Aditya K. Udupa 26, Vrishin Arinjai 71, P.S. Vikram 32, Advith M. Shetty 32 n.o., Shreevathsa R. Acharya 4/42, Docca Amogh 3/103) drew with Jawahar SC (1) 364/8 in 90 overs (Raghuveer 95, Amod S. Kaluve 80, S. Chaitanya 38, V. Prithvi 74 n.o., Nathan D'Mello 5/136).

Visweswarampuram (1) 153 in 51.5 overs (Amay Tejas 46, R. Ajith 3/19, N.S. Sachin 3/34) & 222/7 in 59 overs (S. Abhinav 32, Diwakar Shankar 42, H. Sarvesh Raju 37, Amay Tejas 51 n.o., S.B. Sanket 3/63) drew with Jawahar SC (2) 242 in 62.4 overs (M.P. Samarth 25, R. Ajith 32, Rohith Sundar 41, Shreyas M.V. Gowda 40, S.B. Sanket 41, A. Siddharth 3/26).

The Bangalore Cricketers 197 in 61.5 overs (Rahul Kulkarni 55, M. Tanush 34, R. Akshay 33, S. Amogh 7/67) & 166/5 in 51 overs (Rahul Kulkarni 55, U. Nakul 28, R. Akshay 41, S. Amogh 4/69) drew with Jawans 196 in 37.5 overs (S.U. Karthik 29, Cheluvaraj 28, Mohammed Sarfaraz Ashraf 31, K. Gourav 40, J. Manoj Kumar 4/48).

Wilson Garden 286 in 59.1 overs (Hrishith Shetty 46, Pavan 47, M.K. Yashwanth 50, Himadri 39, Kazi Abrar 61 n.o., S. Chiranth 4/86) drew with Jupiter CA 380/9 in 86.1 overs (Prajwal Prakash 85, S. Nithish Gowda 40, Smaran Ramesh 26, Varun P. Annadani 57, K. Gagandeep 89, Akash G. Pattar 30).

All-round show by Virender

Virender Singh Aujla's all-round effort (three for 15 and 43 not out) helped Jolly Cricketers defeat RVCE by five wickets in the KSCA (Group I) third division league.

The scores:

RVCE 145 in 47.4 overs (N. Shreyas 42, Vaibhav Suresh 27, Rahul Bellad 4/22, Virender Singh Aujla 3/15) lost to Jolly Cricketers 146/5 in 33.3 overs (Aarav Shriyan 31, S. Sumukha Prasad 29, Virender Singh Aujla 43 n.o., Nikhil 25 n.o.).

Hammonds 245/9 in 50 overs (Gaurav S. Upadhyaya 42, Dhanush Subramanya 32, Ashwin Tantry 72, Abhishek Joseph Koshi 54, Samyak Vellalore 3/40) lost to Whirlwind Cricketers 246/3 in 45 overs (Gyan Somaiah 93 n.o., Mithesh Madhan 38, Naveen 49, Shreyank Sagar 50).

FUCC (2) 237 in 49 overs (S. Vishnu Viran 34, R. Pranav Babu 105, R. Darshan 36, Abhilash Fernandes 3/31) bt Cavaliers 190 in 49.1 overs (Yash Jadhav 28, K.L. Monith Narayan 26, Jay Desai 35, Abhilash Fernandes 45, Ronak Yelwal 3/19, R. Darshan 3/24, Rajendra Danganavar 3/34).

Champion: The Sports School won the U-13 boys' crown in the Karnataka Youth Premier League football. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Engrades 104 in 29.1 overs (Karna Surya Vamshi 28, M.U. Sureen 40, Saurav P. Samant 4/18) lost to Malleswaram Gymkhana 107/2 in 27.5 overs (Krishav S. Somasundar 34 n.o., Arnav Mishra 44 n.o.).

Bangalore SC 149 in 37.5 overs (Aryan Inchal 44, B.C. Vinay 29, Akash Katamble 40, B. Vineeth 4/29) lost to Dooravani Cricketers (1) 153/9 in 42.1 overs (Roshan Ashwathaiah 26 n.o., J. Karthik 5/33).

Visweswarapuram (2) 195 in 44.1 overs (V.H. Amey 77, Devanjan Sarkar 33, K.P. Mukund 3/39, Arnav Arun Bharadwaj 3/22) lost to Minerva 198/4 in 39.1 overs (Arnav Arun Bharadwaj 29, M.R. Prithvi Raj 56, Prahas S. Nairy 55).

MNK Rao Park, DYES Sports Hostel win

MNK Rao Park BC and DYES Sports Hostel Mysore emerged the men's and women's champions in the Sahakara Nagar State-level basketball tournament held recently.

The Sports School clinches title

The Sports School emerged U-13 boys' football champion in the Karnataka Youth Premier League final held over the weekend.

The result (final): The Sports School 1 (Josh Paul Jyothish Cherian 47) bt Alchemy IFA 0.

Goa, Services enter the semifinals

Sports Bureau

Goa made it to the semifinals of the 77th National Football Championship for the Santosh Trophy by prevailing over a gritty Delhi in the second quarterfinal at the Golden Jubilee Stadium in Yupia, Arunachal Pradesh, on Monday.

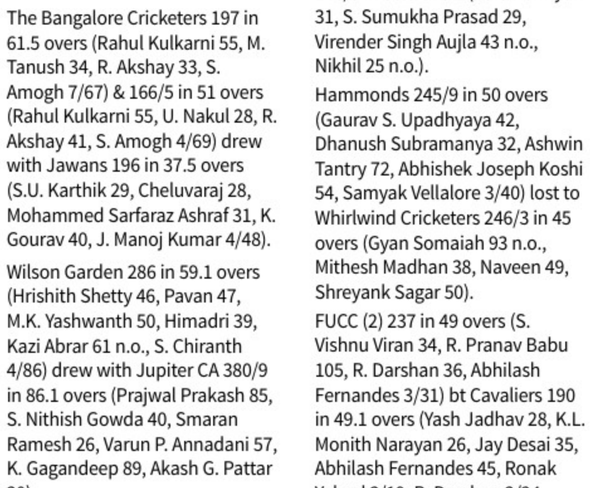
All three goals came off 'corners' in the first half where Delhi took the lead early in the eight minute off a Sahil Kumar header. Jobern Cardozo produced the equaliser in the 20th minute before Lloyd Cardozo diverted home the other flag-kick to seal the issue for Goa.

The five-time champion will now meet Manipur or Assam. Earlier Services defeated three-time champion Railways 2-0. Services took the lead through a penalty converted by Shafeel P.P. in the ninth minute before Samir Mumru scored the second. Services will meet Kerala or Mizoram.

The results (quarterfinals): Services 2 (Shafeel P.P. pen-9, Samir Murmu 45+1) bt Railways 0. Goa 2 (Jobern Cardozo 20, Lloyd Cardozo 29) bt Delhi 1 (Sahil Kumar 8).

A phenomenon named Juliette, the 'Queen Empress' of the Indian turf

Cyrus J. Madan



Stupendous show: (from right) Karthik Ganapathy, Zavaray Poonawalla, Simone Poonawalla Pandole, Rishad Pandole, and Mrs. Behroze Z. Poonawalla leading in the HPSL Indian Turf Invitation Cup-winner Juliette, piloted by C.S. Jodha. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The name Juliette will always conjure up one of the greatest love stories of all time, penned by William Shakespeare and immortalised on the stage and screen for centuries thereafter. That story of Juliet of Shakespeare fame sadly ended in tragedy. On the other hand, the tale of the eight-year-old grey mare Juliette, spelt with a double 't' and ending with an 'e' is one of ecstasy and glory. In fact, it gets better and better each year.

On Sunday, March 3, 2024, at the Calcutta Race course, sporting the colours of the Poonawalla family, Juliette, trained by Karthik Ganapathy and ridden by C.S. Jodha, made history as she continued her romance with the most prestigious race of the year in India, The Indian Turf Invitation Cup, winning it for the third time in succession.

Born on the 17th of March, 2016, at the Sohna Stud, she was bought a little over a year later by Karthik and Dr. Karthikeyan for the Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer Karthik recalls his first impression. "She was small and nondescript little filly, but there was something special about her and she had top staying pedigree." That 'staying pedigree' we would soon discover was not going to be merely confined to the race track where she would become virtually invincible over any distance beyond a mile and a quarter, but would extend to her racing career as well.

Conceding four years in age and weight to her rivals, Juliette swamped the opposition to win her third successive Invitation Cup by an incredible margin of eight lengths. In the bargain, she smashed the RCTC track record and that was after she was eased up in the last half a furlong.

Karthik has done a remarkable job in keeping this mare in racing and that too at a level which, for most, would be a pipe dream. Jockey C.S. Jodha, who has been her regular partner, has built up a wonderful understanding with her and together they have scaled the pinnacle.

On Sunday, the crowds, that thronged to the racecourse to watch this equine superstar, held their breath and looked on with dread when at one stage of the race Juliette was over 16 lengths behind the leaders. But jockey C.S. Jodha and Juliette knew what they were doing. They gradually improved to be within striking distance just before heads were turned for home. Jodha galvanised the champion and asked for her an effort. The response was mesmerising. In an explosion of speed and acceleration, Juliette swept past the best the country.

The great Juliette is truly the 'Queen Empress' of the Indian turf. And greatness is all about consistency and being at the top of your game every single day, as proved by Juliette.

Ashwin is always finding ways to get you out: Root

Press Trust of India
BENGALURU

England's Joe Root said that India's R. Ashwin, who will play his 100th Test during the fifth match against England in Dharamshala, is a constant threat who hardly believes in the concept of wearing the opposition down.

"Ashwin is always trying to find ways of getting you out rather than trying to wear you down over long periods of time," Root said on Sky Sports cricket podcast hosted by former England captains Mike Atherton and Nasser Hussain.

Ashwin recently went past the 500-wicket milestone in the traditional format becoming only the second Indian after Anil Kumble to do so.

"He uses creases differently from traditional off-spinners. He uses over-spin, side-spin, can get really tight to the stumps, can go wider and he has got the carrom ball, you know, a lot of different tricks.

Smriti-Perry combine revels as RCB subdues Warriorz

Their quickfire half-centuries provide substance and momentum to the hosts' innings as they put on a total of 198; Healy's fifty and cameos from Deepti and Poonam not enough as the UP team goes down by 23 runs

WPL SEASON 2

Mayank Chaudhary
BENGALURU

Smriti Mandhana (80, 50b, 10x4, 3x6) instilled trophy hopes in the faithful supporters with an astonishing knock that helped the Royal Challengers Bangalore finish the home leg on a high.

On Monday night, after posting the Women's Premier League 2024's highest total of 198 for three, RCB handed UP Warriorz a 23-run loss at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here.

While chasing a mammoth 199, UPW openers Alyssa Healy and Kiran Navgire scored 46 in the first four overs.

Kiran miscued a lofted shot and was caught by Georgia Wareham off Sophie Devine. Sophie Molineux trapped Chamari Athapaththu in front to give RCB another wicket in a contentious DRS review.

Lifting the team: Smriti's enterprising knock meant RCB finished its home leg on a high. K. MURALI KUMAR

Final nail

When Devine packed off Grace Harris, the Warriorz chase went off the rails, but a determined Healy remained a big hurdle for RCB.

It was Molineux who had Healy stumped for 55 before Deepti Sharma and Poonam Khemnar added 41 for the sixth wicket. Warriorz's decision to bat second had backfired as it only managed 175 for eight.

Earlier, the league witnessed its first Indian opening duo with S. Meghana pairing up with Smriti. The out-of-form Devine was pushed down the order. Meghana took good advantage of the opportunity and struck five boundaries, scoring 28 off 21, and when Anjali Saravi dismissed her, RCB had already gone past fifty inside six overs.

Smriti pulled out the scoops and cuts from her arsenal, utilising behind-the-square boundaries. Her shot selection and impeccable timing stunned the Warriorz as she reached her half-century in the 13th over.

Two dropped catches made matters worse for Healy's side before Deepti broke the 95-run stand between Smriti and Ellyse Perry (58, 37b, 4x4, 4x6).

Perry took over once Smriti departed, her blazing knock ensuring that the decibel levels remained high.

SCOREBOARD

ROYAL CHALLENGERS
S. Meghana c Athapaththu b Anjali 28 *(21b, 5x4)*, Smriti Mandhana c Poonam b Deepti 80 *(50b, 10x4, 3x6)*, Ellyse Perry c Poonam b Ecclestone 58 *(37b, 4x4, 4x6)*, Richa Ghosh (not out) 21 *(10b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Sophie Devine (not out) 2 *(2b)*; Extras (b-4, lb-1, w-4): 9; Total (for three wkts. in 20 overs): 198.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-51 (Meghana, 5.3 overs), 2-146 (Smriti, 16.1), 3-188 (Perry, 19.1).

WARRIORZ BOWLING
Harris 3-0-25-0, Anjali 3-0-41-1, Rajeshwari 3-0-43-0, Athapaththu 3-0-32-0, Deepti 4-0-30-1, Ecclestone 4-0-22-1.

UP WARRIORZ
Alyssa Healy st. Richa b Molineux 55 *(38b, 7x4, 3x6)*, Kiran Navgire c Wareham b Devine 18 *(11b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Chamari Athapaththu lbw b Wareham 8 *(8b, 2x4)*, Grace Harris c Richa b Devine 5 *(5b, 1x4)*, Shweta Sehrawat c Ekta b Asha 1 *(5b)*, Deepti Sharma c & b Asha 33 *(22b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Poonam Khemnar b Molineux 31 *(24b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Sophie Ecclestone b Wareham 4 *(3b, 1x4)*, Anjali Sarvani (not out) 3 *(4b)*; Extras (lb-2, w-15): 17; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 175.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-47 (Kiran, 4.2), 2-63 (Athapaththu, 6.3), 3-74 (Harris, 7.5), 4-89 (Shweta, 9.3), 5-113 (Healy, 12.3), 6-154 (Deepti, 17.4), 7-159 (Ecclestone, 18.2), 8-175 (Poonam, 19.6).

RCB BOWLING
Renuka 3-1-30-0, Devine 4-0-37-2, Molineux 4-0-29-2, Wareham 4-0-38-2, Asha 4-0-29-2, Ekta 1-0-10-0.

Toss: Warriorz; **PoM:** Smriti.
RCB won by 23 runs.
Tuesday's match: DC vs. MI, New Delhi, 7.30 p.m.

Sai Praneeth brings the curtains down on illustrious career

Bidding adieu, but... Praneeth says he will stay connected to the sport as a coach. GETTY IMAGES

BADMINTON

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

B. Sai Praneeth, World championship bronze medallist and one of the most stylish players in Indian badminton, quit the sport on Monday.

"There is no specific reason but I felt the way I had to struggle last year because of a combination of factors including injuries, I thought I cannot cope with the demanding schedule of playing two matches a day in some of the majors sometimes," Praneeth told *The Hindu*.

"Age is also a factor. At 32, I could have played at the most another one year. So, I took the call after discussing it with my parents and my wife (Sweta). There are no regrets at all."

"Losing in the first round of the Tokyo Olympics was the biggest disappointment. Winning the 2019 World Championship bronze and the Singapore Open were the high points of my career," Praneeth said.

Quite satisfied

"Looking back at the journey, I am quite satisfied with my contribution to Indian badminton. I hope I will be remembered as a special player in a group which really dominated the world stage," he said.

"Beating the likes of Lee Chong Wei in 2016 All England in the first round and some of the big names like Chen Long, Taufik Hidayat and Lin Dan are great memories for sure," said Praneeth, who says he can spend more time with his family (wife Sweta and two-year-old Sriyansh).

"Frankly, I feel I have done what I could in the long career. Yes, I could have won some big tournaments and then the script would have been different," he said.

"I do believe there can be a gap once our group of players (K. Srikanth, H.S. Prannoy, P. Kashyap, Sameer Varma the others) quit the sport. Yes, there are some real good players like Lakshya (Sen) and Priyanshu. I hope they will continue the legacy," Praneeth said.

The shuttler said he would take up a coaching assignment in North Carolina (USA) soon and continue to stay connected to the sport.

THE HINDU GROUP

The longest war in human history was not waged between countries.

History tells us that animals used to share a home with us. We hunted them for a living. So did they when they were attacked or hungry. But even back then, we were not a threat to their very existence. We consumed what was essential from our shared home. Eventually, we upgraded ourselves to better homes, better survival plans, better food habits, better everything. With their sole enemy out of their hair, life should have gotten easier for the animals. Not really. Their enemy left the jungle and built their cities only to expand them right back into the jungle. We cut trees, killed ecosystems and took away sand from the rivers. Their watering holes have all dried up, thanks to the global warming we escalated into existence. The need being theirs, they began walking a few extra miles to find water but that is where the catch lay. We decorated the path to the next nearest waterbody with death traps. Railway tracks, electrified fences, highways, power lines and the works. Inventions that simplified human lives and complicated animal lives. Now, every time an animal ventures out in search of food or water, they stand the risk of getting killed. Sounds like a battlefield of sorts, eh? It is. One where no one wants to take over anyone's territory and yet end up killing each other in a bid to survive. Progress must serve everyone. The world would be a different place if animals were capable of making technological progress. Sadly for them and fortunately for us, they cannot. As the 'superior being' on the planet, can we not use our intellect to find better ways to co-exist rather than sadder ways to ensure their doom?

This World Wildlife Day, let us take concrete measures to stop making this planet a battlefield for animals.

THE HINDU CARE COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Scan to read the story on human-animal conflicts in India and various mitigation efforts taken or visit https://newsth.live/WWD2024

THE HINDU
March 3, 2024
World Wildlife Day

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 381/2023-24/KWA/PHC/TVLA JJM - WSS to Enadimangalam - Design, Construction of 17 MLD WTP at Chayalode, O&M for 3 years, Supply of Transformer, pump sets and construction of OHSR - Construction of Intake well cum pump house, Supplying and installation of pump sets and Supplying and laying RWPM Construction of 7LL OHSR - Construction of 15LL OHSR and 4LL OHSR - Supply and laying CWPMs from Chayalodu to OHSR at Kunnathumala, Chayalodu to Paruthippara, Paruthippara to OHSRs at Murugankunnu and Kannimala, Supply of pump set, Construction of sump cum pump house including road restoration. **EMD :** Rs. 500000, **Tender Fee :** Rs. 19518, **Last Date for Submitting Tender :** 18-03-2024, 02:00 pm, **Phone :** 0469 - 2600162. Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**

Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-2540-2023-24 **PH Circle, Pathanamthitta**

TOURISM CORPORATION OF GUJARAT LIMITED (TCGL)
(A Government of Gujarat undertaking)
Udyog Bhavan, Block No. 16, 4th Floor,
Sector-11, Gandhinagar-382 011
Website: https://www.gujarattourism.com

TENDER NOTICE (retender)

Bids are invited from reputed and experienced agencies towards **"Selection of an Agency for Operation and Maintenance of Sunset Point, Bhalchel Hill, Sasangir, Junagadh".**
The project requirements, technical specifications, eligibility criteria, selection process, etc. are included in the Tender document, which shall be available for download from the websites: **https://tender.nprocure.com/** and **https://www.gujarattourism.com** from 05/03/2024 onwards.
The last date for submission of the **Technical Bid and Financial Bid (online only) is 27/03/2024 up to 6:00 pm. and Technical Bid (physical only) is 30/03/2024 up to 3:00 pm.**

Managing Director

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
SHORT TERM NIB NO. 28/2023-24

BIDs are invited in prescribed format from Bidders registered in appropriate class in RRVPNL / A or AA class in Central/ state Government Department and their undertakings in the O/o the Executive Engineer (Civil) RVPN Alwar for Sr. No. 01 and in the O/o the Superintending Engineer (Civil) RVPN Jaipur for Sr. No. 02 in short term NIT No. 28/2023-24. All information regarding BIDs are available on **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.rvpn.co.in** and **http://sppp.raj.nic.in**.

UBN :- VPN2324WSOB02280 To VPN2324WSOB02281

S. E.
Raj.Samwad/C/23/14121 RRVPN/TR-6134/2024 **(Civil), Jaipur**

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
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Ph.: 04324-277001 (10 Lines). Extn.: 4206/2403. E-Mail: pmd8@tnpl.co.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Date of publishing Tender document in TNPL/NIC website	Due date
232413 007637	Supply, Erection and Commissioning of Fuel Handling Plant for RSPS#2 at TNPL Unit - I.	15.04.2024	14.05.2024
232413 007638	Supply, Erection and Commissioning of Wet Lime Based Flue Gas Desulphurisation System for 1 X 125 TPH AFBC Boiler under RSPS#2 at TNPL Unit -I.	29.04.2024	28.05.2024

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions, Tender fee, EMD, etc., are available in the tender document at our websites: **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/1356/Tender/2024 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

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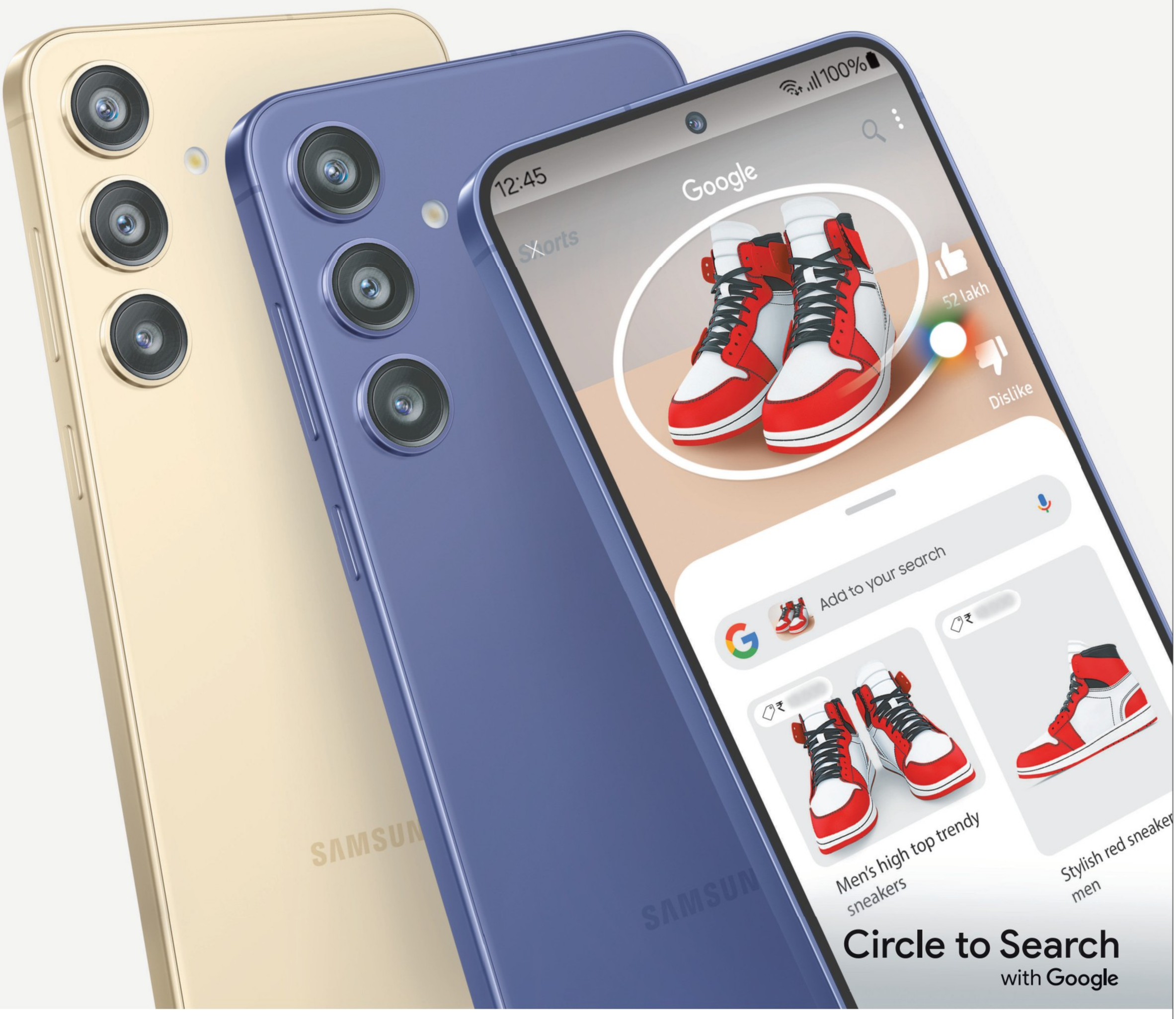

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